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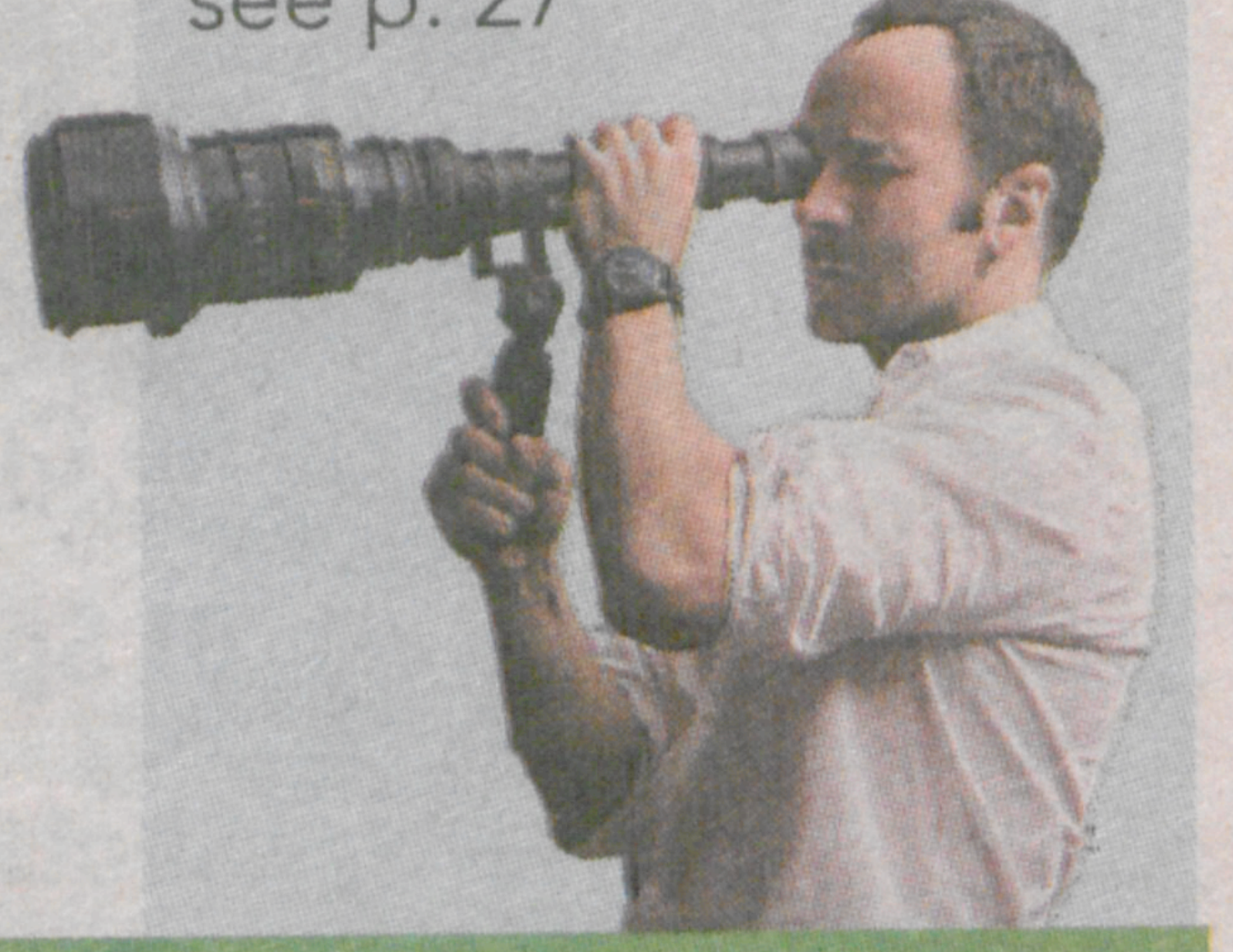
MARCH/APRIL 2010



A straightforward love story

see p. 27

"We'll be making some new noise in the old ways."

March For Equality Organizer David Mixner Speaks to Central PA

By Frank Pizzoli

David Mixner's bio reflects stamina. His political involvements have been and remain pivotal.

As a Clinton White House insider and co-organizer with Cleve Jones of the Oct. 11, 2009 national March For Equality, he's building on that political base.

His efforts do not go unnoticed. The international Dutch magazine Winq recently selected him as one of the 20 most powerful gay men in the world. "One of the most articulate and outspoken gay rights activists in America, David Mixner has always something to say."

He had something to say early on Oct. 11 before the start of the march. He and Jones huddled with media outlets, including Central Voice, to describe the day's unfolding. Locally, the LGBT Community Center organized 110 people onto two busses. A bus from Reading added another 20 marchers. About 130 people from the region joined thousands who marched.

Central Voice asked Mixner what he had to share with central Pennsylvania now that the signs and banners have been put away.

"The march was a huge success. About 70% of those involved were under 30. I call them the Prop. 8 generation," Mixner says. His delivery is firm, reflecting his resolve to make gay civil rights a reality.

"I'm looking to early spring and next fall when I'm confident the energy set into motion by the march will bear fruit," Mixner surmises. He's talking about a groundswell of activism taking place outside of Washington, where more established lgbt lobbies have held court but see their "back home" base eroding.

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ONLY OUR GOVERNMENT DOESN'T RECOGNIZE IT

York photographer Wade Keller provided photos from the March for Equality. Email: mugshot@shotinyork.com; shotinyork.com/events.

Turla and DePaquale Underscore City Challenges

By Frank Pizzoli

Although hearings were called by the Pennsylvania House Majority Policy Committee to examine job creation in third-class cities, the topic of the day was financial distress.

"Job creation alone will not solve the problem," House Majority Policy Committee chairman Mike Sturla, D-Lancaster, says about Jan. 12, the day mayors from Lancaster, York, and Harrisburg testified. There are 56 cities in the state with 53 designated third-class.

The hearing was held at the request of state Rep. Eugene DePasquale, D-York. DePasquale said about the hearings, "It is crucial that we examine the economic development opportunities and make well-thought-out strategic plans." The plans called for by all three mayors involved help with avoiding potential bankruptcy.

Making those strategic plans can be difficult, say Sturla and DePasquale, who point to structural problems.

"Cities are regional transportation hubs with traffic passing through from all over," Sturla points out. Yet, as he notes, PA Dept. of Transportation rules count only "lanes miles" rather than "vehicle miles" in calculating how funds are allocated.

"Thousands of vehicles pass through daily on a small number of lanes," Sturla says. That high level of usage "doesn't address regular wear and tear" on a city by commuters. Rules and regulations that do not have a regional outlook "stack the cards against us every possible way" he says.

Regional planning, and the hoped for new jobs that may follow on, is the way to go. "There are examples like the York Regional police force and fire company mergers in discussion," says DePasquale.

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PRIDE FESTIVAL OF CENTRAL PA

Naming rights up for grabs

see p. 30

MARRIAGE EQUALITY

Marriage plight underscored

see p. 12

ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION

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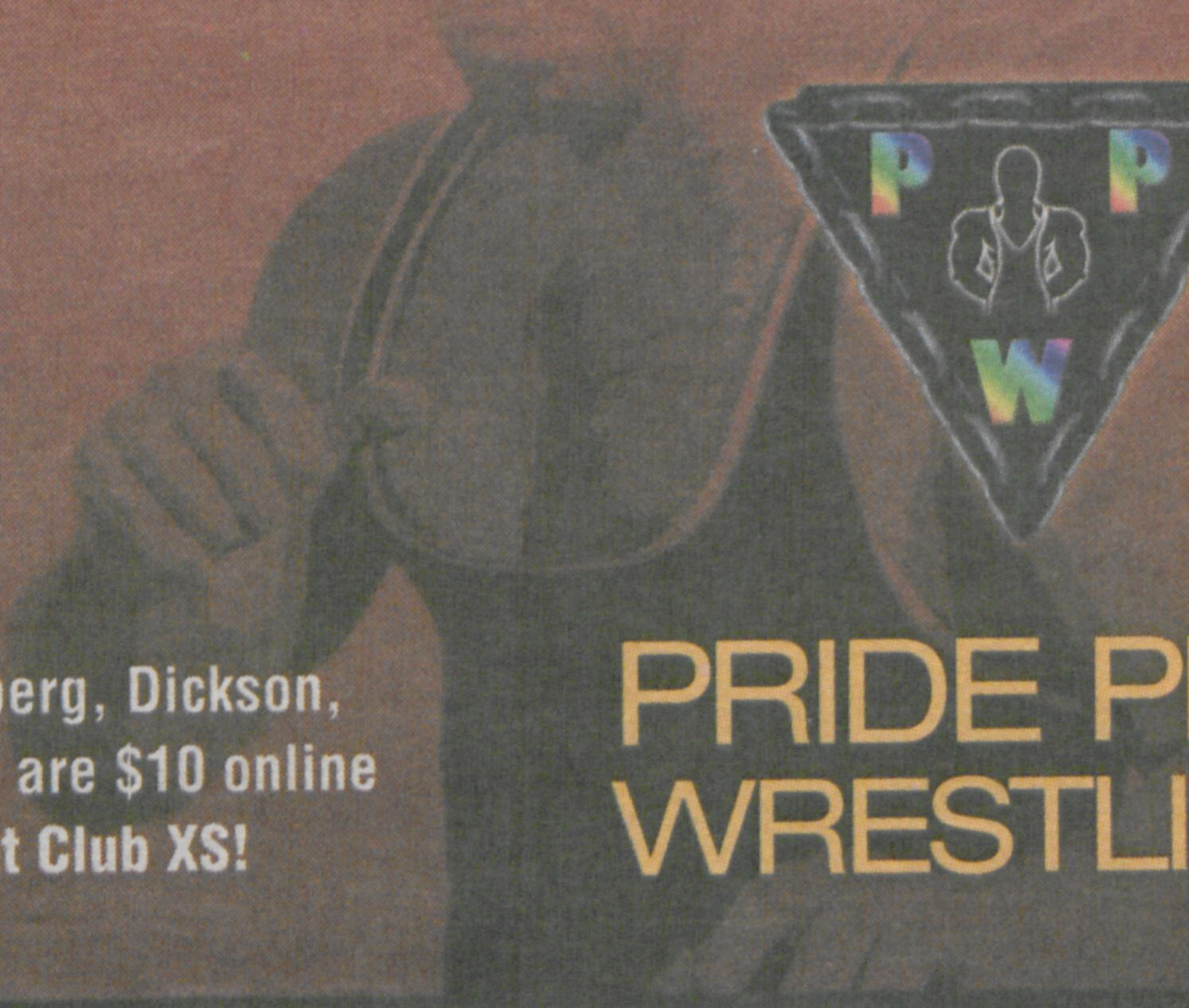

black white party

Please join us **Friday, May 7th** for our fourth annual Black & White Party. Tickets are $25 in advance or $35 at the door for General Admission. VIP tickets are $100 in advance, or $125 at the door (limited availability). The theme for this year will be **"Alice in Boogie Wonderland".** Visit our web site **www.clubxsyork.com** for more information.

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Community Center and Lancaster Pride Announce Partnership

Submitted by LGBT Community Center Coalition of Central PA

After several weeks of thoughtful discussion and conversation, the LGBT Community Center Coalition of Central PA and Lancaster Pride are pleased to announce the formation of a unique partnership between their two organizations.

Formally known as a fiscal sponsorship agreement, the partnership creates an arrangement between the Center and Lancaster Pride akin to the project agreements used by a number of community foundations. Basically, the center will manage much of the administrative duties of Lancaster Pride and in exchange receive a fee based on a percentage from their project revenues. Lancaster Pride will now have the ability to operate under the center's non-profit status and market itself as a "Project of the LGBT Community Center."

"We reached out to the center to discuss ways we could work together," says Lancaster Pride co-chair, Chris Baldwin, "and they were really open to hearing our ideas and looking for a solution that would help us both. The conversations that followed were easy and thorough and we talked about everything. It was the kind of open conversations that partners have, and I'm really pleased with the outcome. I honestly think that it will make the lives of both groups better."

Center board president Ted Martin expanded on Baldwin's sentiments. "The center is always looking for the best ways to support the community. That is our purpose and all our efforts are aimed at making this one goal tangible. This partnership with Lancaster Pride is a proud moment and it makes our mission of finding common ground for the region's lgbt community just a little more real. Plus, we are helping a great organization like Lancaster Pride grow and that's a tremendously positive feeling."

Under the agreement, Lancaster Pride will maintain all of its officers and volunteer leadership and keep full control of the event and organization. "That's one of the key elements of the agreement" says Martin. "On a working level, the only major changes will be how Pride's banking is done and that they can now function as a non-profit organization. We really worked hard to find a way for Pride to maintain its identity, leadership, and place in the community while giving the center the ability to maintain its operational standing."

"In everything that we talked about, it seemed that the center was always interested in supporting the work that Pride was already doing. They said this repeatedly and stuck by their word," agreed Lancaster Pride co-chairs Chris Baldwin and Mark Stoner. "That was an important factor in making this agreement happen."

The missions of both Lancaster PRIDE and the LGBT Community Center Coalition of Central PA, while different in phrasing, both involve the betterment of the lives of the many Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender citizens of central Pennsylvania.

For more information on Lancaster PRIDE, go to www.lancasterpride.org or call (717) 669-2558. For more information on The LGBT Community Center Coalition of Central PA, go to www.centralpalgbtcenter.org or call (717) 920-9534.

Central Voice Brings Readers Gay USA TV News

Central Voice brings readers and web site members Gay USA, a weekly news magazine.

Watch your email for program notices. If not already a member of our web site and you want to access the program, please go to thecentralvoice.ning.com for a free web site enrollment.

Hosted by veteran lgbt civil rights activists Andy Humm and Ann Northrup, the show is a weekly one-hour news program devoted to in-depth coverage of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender issues on a local, state, national and international level.

The format also includes guest interviews.

Gay USA begins with a quick introduction by Humm and Northrop then moves into news segments as viewed from the gay perspective. Regular segments include gay news, AIDS news, and entertainment news.

Longtime journalist and activist, Northrop has worked for the National Journal and has reported on all branches of the federal government including The White House, Congress and the Supreme Court. Northrop has also worked for ABC Sports, Ms. , and Ladies' Home Journal, as well as a writer-producer for ABC's Good Morning America and a producer for the CBS Morning News and has worked with Diane Sawyer, Bill Kurtis, Forrest Sawyer, Maria Shriver, Phyllis George, Charlie Rose and Meredith Vieira.

As a gay news reporter, Humm has covered virtually every major gay and AIDS news story since the 1980s. He's covered Democratic and Republican National Conventions. His interviews include, titled according to their political position at the time of the interview, include Governors Bill Clinton and George Pataki; Senators Bill Bradley, Joseph Lieberman, Chuck Schumer, and Bob Dole; Representatives Newt Gingrich, Dick Cheney, and Richard Gephardt. Activists interviewed by Humm include Jesse Jackson, Gloria Steinem, Al Sharpton, and Larry Kramer. Humm has interviewed actors Matthew Broderick and Ian McKellen as well as authors Alan Hollinghurst, Ned Rorem, and Martin Duberman.

Andy Humm

Ann Northrup

Humm has been interviewed on the CBS Evening News, the Geraldo Show, Charlie Rose, Fox TVs Hannity & Colmes, America's Talking with Chris Matthews, The Maury Povich Show, the Alan Colmes and Barry Farber radio shows, all New York City TV newscasts, and is a frequent guest on NY-1 TVs Inside City Hall. Humm's opinion-editorials have appeared in the The New York Times, New York Post, Daily News and Newsday.

Same-sex Marriage ROUND UP

Same-sex marriage remains an issue nationwide, including Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Washington, DC, New Hampshire, and Iowa.

Recently the New Jersey state senate voted 14-20 against a bill that would have allowed gays and lesbians to marry in the Garden State.

Disappointed sponsor State Sen. Loretta Weinberg [D-Teaneck] evoked her late-husband of nearly 40 years as she urged her fellow lawmakers to support the bill. "Men and women don't have a monopoly on loving relationships," she said.

Another proponent of the measure, State Sen. Brian Baroni [R-Hamilton] maintained the Garden State's civil unions law continues to relegate gays and lesbians to second class status. "Separate but equal was wrong in 1954, it is wrong today," Baroni said. "Separate but equal can certainly be separate, but it can never be equal; and unequal treatment by government is always, always wrong."

Senate President Dick Codey [D-Edison] further evoked the civil rights movement of the 1960s in his support of the bill. State Sen. Nia Gill [D-Montclair] highlighted Loving vs. Virginia as she testified passionately for the measure, but state Sen. Gerald Cardinale [R-Demarest] maintained lawmakers should remedy the many problems he contend remain with New Jersey's civil unions law; and not pass a marriage bill.

"I heard nothing that cannot be fixed about the problems that were presented to us by folks who are in civil unions relationships," Cardinale said. "There are many problems, but for those many problems there are a solution if we put our minds to it; there are many solutions without putting violence against marriage."

State sen. Barbara Buono [D-Metuchen] disagreed. "We have an opportunity today to correct an injustice," she said.

The vote cames less than a week after same-sex couples began to marry in New Hampshire and a month after lawmakers in the District of Columbia backed a bill to allow marriage in the nation's capital. New Jersey activists scored a legislative victory of sorts with the vote itself, but it represents the latest setback in the push to secure marriage for gays and lesbians around the country.

Iowa activists from "One Iowa" last month aired a commercial hoping to protect their victory of nine months ago when that state's supreme court unanimously voted in favor of equal marriage rights.

more community news on pages
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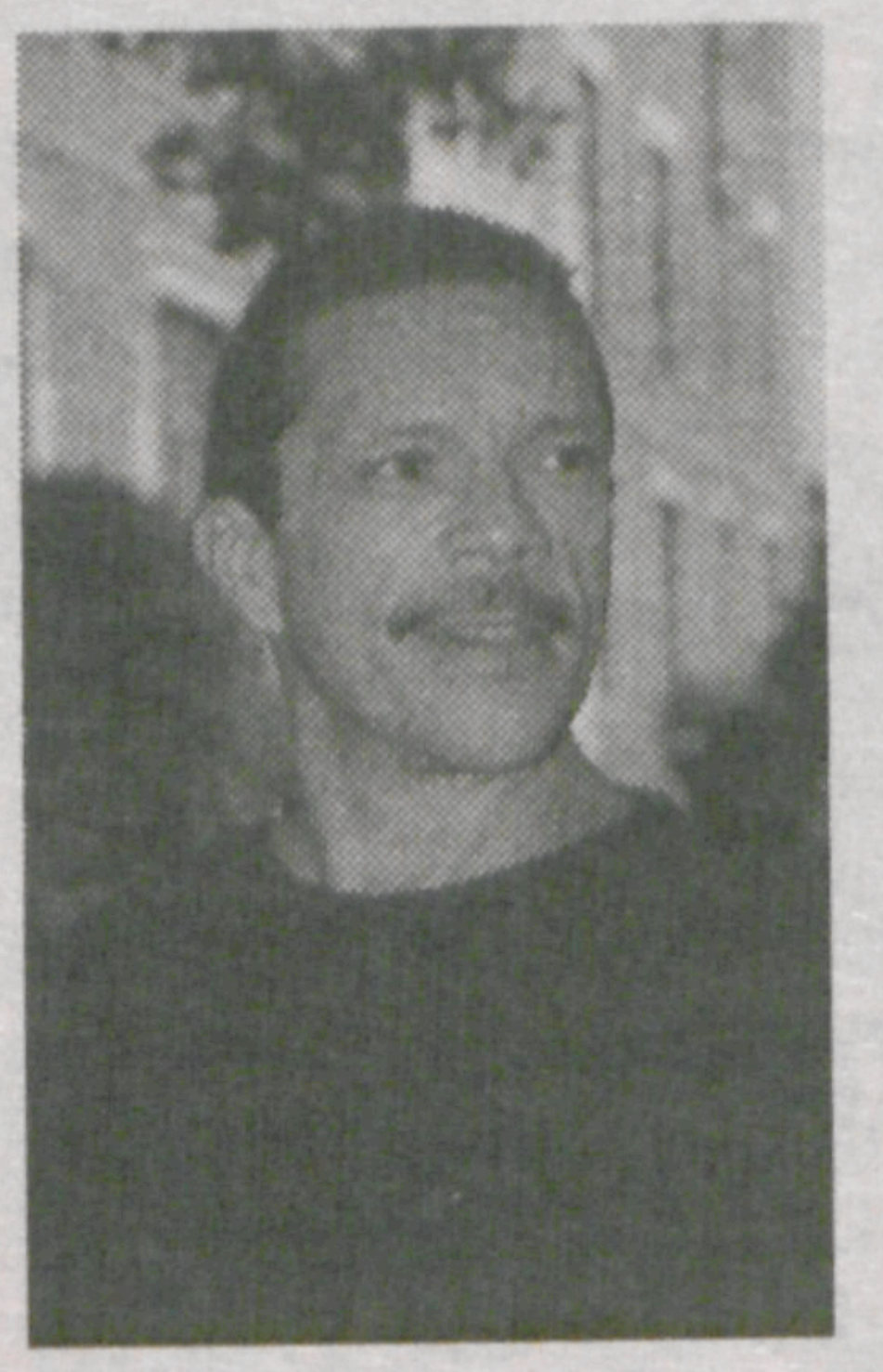
CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA GAY AND LESBIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

publisher's note

Why the Census Is Important



Frank Pizzoli

Census questionnaires are expected to be mailed to households this month.

"We want people to know that the Census is coming," U.S. Census Bureau LGBT Communities Partnership Specialist Matt Weinstein told an audience at the San Diego LGBT Community Center.

The Census is conducted every 10 years. The questionnaire, a two-page form for households with less than three people or a multi-page form for households with more than three people, asks the head of each household to state the number of people in the house, define their relationship to one another and identify each person's race, sex and age.

Private and public organizations use the data to determine everything from congressional seats to social services funding.

"We have to absolutely make sure that every one of our members of our community gets counted, because [the total] correlates to programs, which … pay for buildings like The Center, which create projects like the Youth Housing Project, help fund things like the Ryan White Care Act and help provide HIV/AIDS projects in our community, said San Diego city councilmember Todd Gloria. "It's so critical that this count is done well."

The Census also provides information about the nation's population, including, the number of same-sex couples living together. However, until recently, the bureau did not acknowledge such data.

Same-sex couples who live together were first able to report being in such relationships on the 1990 Census when the bureau added the category "unmarried partner" to its list of responses to the question: "What is your relationship to the people you live with?" But "If two people of the same sex checked that they were unmarried partners living together, it was assumed that one person was making a mistake on their sex," Weinstein said.

"So a guy and a guy became a guy and a girl and a girl and a girl became a girl and a guy," explained Census representative Timothy Olson.

But by the 2000 Census, the bureau recognized that the category unmarried partner could include same-sex couples who lived together and reported that nearly 600,000 such relationships existed that year.

The 2010 Census will identify same-sex couples who live together as either married or unmarried, since several states now legally recognize same-sex marriage. But while the 2010 Census will record same-sex couples who live together, it will not record the number of people living in the U.S. who identify as gay, lesbian or bisexual.

"There is no 'gay' box," said Weinstein. "The Census will not know what my sexual orientation is based on this form." Nor will the 2010 Census record the number of transgender people living in the U.S.

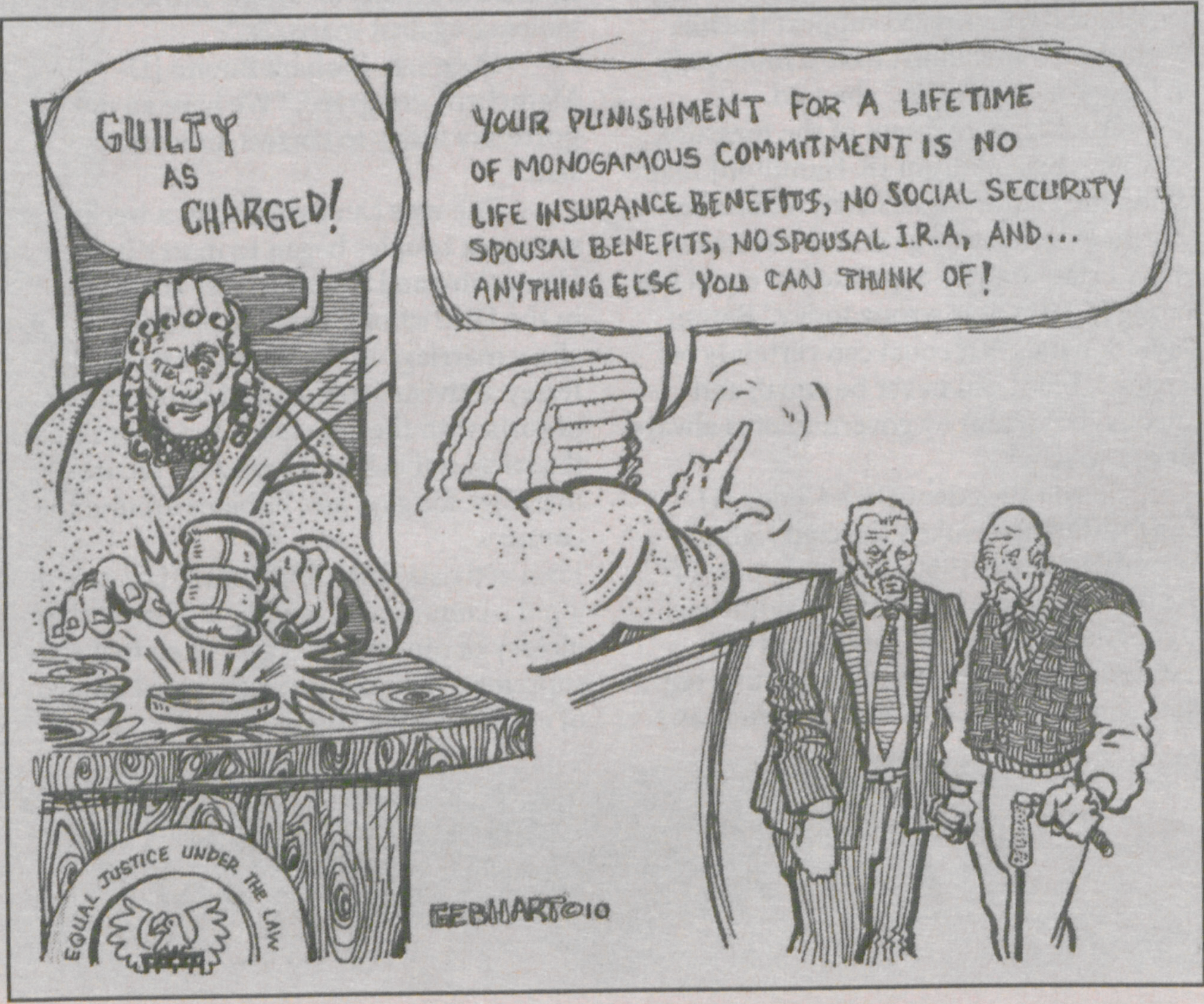
"Unfortunately, given the way the questionnaire is currently structured, there is no way to identify a gender identity that is different from one's biological sex," Weinstein said.

Weinstein added that the Census has been working with the National Center for Transgender Equality to "do the job in counting the community" and advised that transgender people should "pick whichever box they fill best represents who they are."

As far as confidentiality is concerned, Weinstein said that completed Census questionnaires are kept safe and secure and will not be released for 72 years after the information is collected. If bureau employees were to divulge information, they could be fined $250,000 and jailed for five years, he added.

Nor does the Census share the information with other government agencies, Weinstein said. "The Census is not going to the military; it's not going to immigration. It's not going to the IRS, not the FBI or the White House."

Weinstein has urged the lgbt community to participate in the Census. "Most of the population doesn't want to hear it from me; they want to hear it from you. They want to hear it from the people they know, people they trust. And we're counting on that," Weinstein said.


GUILTY AS CHARGED!
YOUR PUNISHMENT FOR A LIFETIME OF MONOGAMOUS COMMITMENT IS NO LIFE INSURANCE BENEFITS, NO SOCIAL SECURITY SPOUSAL BENEFITS, NO SPOUSAL I.R.A, AND... ANYTHING ELSE YOU CAN THINK OF!
EQUAL JUSTICE UNDER THE LAW
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your voice

Sierra Club Urges Restoration of Funds

Responding to the announcement that the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources had successfully auctioned $128.4 million in gas exploration leases, the Pennsylvania Sierra Club called on Governor Rendell to restore the funding to the agencies that administer state lands.

Last fall, state parks and state forests were subject to several budget cuts, which would require closure of some 24 state parks and reduce recreational access in state forests.

Jeff Schmidt, director of the Pennsylvania Sierra Club stated: "The budget ax fell unfairly on the two agencies which manage the gas exploration process - the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Department of Environmental Protection." Numerous staff people were furloughed in both agencies.

"When gas exploration companies can offer $4000 an acre to look for gas, we know that it is not a struggling, infant industry, as has been portrayed in its press releases," Mr. Schmidt said. Major companies, such as Anadarko Exploration, Chesapeake, and Seneca Resources, submitted bids for the leases. In addition to the 32,000 acres recently leased, 600,000 acres of the state forests has been opened to drilling. "It is time to a step back and look at the consequences to our forests," Mr. Schmidt continued. According to the Governor's office, 1,984 Marcellus gas well permits were issued last year, and 763 wells were drilled.

The Pennsylvania Sierra Club has supported a proposed gas severance tax on gas produced in the Marcellus Shale region of Pennsylvania. "Gas drilling causes unavoidable and damaging environmental effects. A severance tax would compensate the Commonwealth for repairing the long-term damage to our environment."

The Sierra Club has more than 24,000 members in Pennsylvania. The Sierra Club is America's oldest, largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization.

Business and Environmental Leaders Applaud PA

Submitted by PennFuture

With the recent release of the Pennsylvania Climate Change Action Plan by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), leaders from business and environmental groups urged Governor Rendell and the Pennsylvania Legislature to move forward with its recommendations to protect and promote the state's environment and economy.

The plan identifies 52 specific recommendations, as well as several recent state and federal actions, which combined will reduce Pennsylvania's heat-trapping gases to 42 percent below 2000 levels in the year 2020. Many of the recommendations were approved unanimously by the Climate Change Advisory Committee.

"This plan is great for Pennsylvania's economy," said Sarah Hetznecker, chair of the Climate Change Advisory Committee (CCAC) which helped develop the plan, and director of Project Development for Conergy, an international green energy company. "Changing the way we make and use energy is vital to combating global warming, and Pennsylvania's green energy providers are ready to go. For every dollar invested by the state, we expect to provide another eight dollars, creating a tremendous investment in Pennsylvania jobs and communities."

Committee member Nathan Willcox, energy and clean air advocate for PennEnvironment, praised the final plan. "Pennsylvanians demonstrated their support for action on global warming by making the Climate Action Plan's public comment period the largest in state history," he said. "The legislature should recognize that this plan has strong public support, and implement it accordingly."

"The plan includes effective strategies for using forests and farms to help trap carbon and provide renewable sources of energy in an ecologically sustainable way," said Ronald Ramsey, senior policy advisor to The Nature Conservancy in Pennsylvania, who also served on the committee. "In addition, it recognizes the need to help wildlife and people adapt to the impacts of climate change and protect Pennsylvania's natural heritage."

Jan Jarrett, committee member and president and CEO of Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future (PennFuture), urged the Governor and the General Assembly to move quickly to adopt the plan's recommendations. "Our elected leaders should take quick action to adopt the measure that give us the greatest pollution reduction measures and save money. We can adopt this plan, which grows our economy at the same time it reduces our state's production of heat-trapping gases. But if we wait, we may have to take such drastic action that we will be unable to plan for a growing economy. The cost of inaction is too high to delay implementing commonsense, money-saving actions."

The plan released by DEP today is required by the 2008 Global Warming Act, which provided for the appointment of a statewide advisory committee, with representatives from all areas and relevant industries and organizations across the Commonwealth. As part of the process, the committee received extensive comments from citizens and experts. Working from an inventory of all sources of Pennsylvania's global warming pollution, which showed electricity generation as the largest single source of heat-trapping gases, the committee developed the recommendations released today, adopting the report overwhelmingly. The plan contains measures addressing electricity generation, energy efficiency in homes and offices, industrial practices, waste management, land use, agricultural operations, protection and management of forest lands, and transportation systems.

A copy of the state's Climate Change Action Plan is available online at http://www.elibrary.dep.state.pa.us/dsweb/View/Collection-10677

Does Free Speech Equal Dollars?

By Marlene Lang

The American Buy-A-Law system recently expanded, as the U.S. Supreme Court righteously guarded your freedom to hear what corporations have to say about politics, equating the freedom to speak on politics with the freedom to spend on politics.

In a past column, I described what I call the "Buy-A-Law" system: "Big, big companies band together and via the lobbyist, send lots of incentives to the guys who will pass laws that will affect their industry; Laws about how new products are approved and marketed, laws about how things are labeled and shipped and shelved. Laws about who can buy their products. Sometimes even laws requiring citizens to buy their products.

In order to insure that regulations favor their industries, the industries must ensure that the lawmakers who will favor them do, in fact, become lawmakers. This is accomplished through campaign financing, or the Buy-A-Law system."

Prior to last week's Citizens United case ruling, there were at least some reigns on Buy-A-Law – limits on "independent expenditures" in political campaigning. But limits no longer exist for corporations, whether non-profits – like the non-profit Citizen's United which put out an anti-Hillary Clinton film during the last election campaign – or businesses, or unions or any other corporate entity. All possess free speech rights in the 5-4 court decision.

Corporations are indeed made up of human persons, but it is a distortion to imagine them as persons with a singular political view and human or Constitutional rights. Clearly, neither your political views, or mine as a newspaper columnist, are as powerful as those of a corporate entity such as, for instance, Wal-Mart. If you speak out, a dozen people may hear it. If I speak out, a few hundred or maybe even a few thousand might be listening. Your views or mine may find a wider reach if we blog or otherwise disperse opinions electronically. But if Wal-Mart makes a pitch, it's a voice heard Earthwide. It is not the voice of a natural person.

The dissenting justices said as much. Justice John Paul Stevens wrote, "Although (corporations) make enormous contributions to our society, corporations are not actually members of it. They cannot vote or run for office." Something tells me they would if they could. Wal-Mart for President anyone?

Was Citizens United v. the Federal Election Commission a win for the First Amendment, or a dangerous corruption of the very free speech that undergirds our democratic process?

Justice Anthony M. Kennedy wrote the majority decision, asserting that to limit spending by corporations is to limit or "command where a person gets his or her information," and that to limit "what distrusted source he or she may not hear" amounts to government censorship and thought control. "This is unlawful," Kennedy wrote. "The First Amendment confirms the freedom to think for ourselves."

You, reader, are free to hear every corporate-spawned pitch on politics and think for yourself. The Roberts court asks us to be grown up, cerebral Americans whose keen minds can cut through the crap of corporate propaganda, discerning truth rigorously, no matter how deep and high the pile of campaign lies.

I discern a difference, though, between the freedom to speak on politics and the freedom to spend on politics, while five U.S. Supreme Court justices interpreted the two as one and the same. I will humbly concede that, yes, I want access to all and any sources of information. I want to think for myself and I am not afraid of flagrant liars and truth-twisters.

But what happens when the biggest spenders – and maybe the biggest liars – get their woman or man in a place of power because a statistically predictable number of crap-detectors sat idle?

Here's what: The newly elected one owes the big spender a really big favor, and the Buy-A-Law system thrives, because corporations have been grant all the free speech their campaign dollar can buy. But we can take comfort knowing that when our democratic republic dissolves into corruption, it will have been legal.

Community Bankers Endorse "Move Your Money"

Submitted by
PA Assn of Community Bankers

The Pennsylvania Association of Community Bankers (PACB) endorses the grassroots movement sparked by the Huffington Post, "Move Your Money." The initiative aims to dismantle "too-big-to-fail" institutions by encouraging consumers to move their financial accounts out of the nation's biggest banks and into a local community bank. PACB is the only banking trade organization in the state to endorse this program.

The greatest strength of Pennsylvania's community banks is their collective reputation for being safe and dependable institutions. Community banks are also the pillars of Main Street—they sponsor Little League teams and quilt raffles for local charities instead of paying excessive bonuses like Wall Street.

Community bankers are locally owned and operated, which means they always have their neighbors' best interests in mind. Whether it's providing responsible mortgages or loans to small businesses, community bankers stand ready to answer the call. This is why the PACB enthusiastically endorses and supports "Move Your Money." Please watch their compelling video in support of community banking at http://moveyourmoney.info.

letters to the editor

Community
I really appreciated your editorial in the last issue of Central Voice. We really need to focus on getting our own house in order and building a community where we look out for each other's well being. You sent an excellent message, and one our community really needs to hear.

Thank you.
Yvonne Rothstein

Thrilled
Just got the Jan-Feb issue if Central Voice. Thank you so much for your wonderful article on the Salvation Army Benefit that Gallery Blu hosted in February. We are thrilled with your support.

Christina
Gallery Blu
www.galleryblu.org

Thank you
Let me say thank you for the article on our January concert and your assistance in publicizing the concert as well.

Dan Deitzel III
Vice-President & Publicity Chair
Harrisburg Men's Chorus

Queeries – Labels & Coming Out

By Steven Petrow

Come Out, Come Out Wherever You Are

How do I come out at work (and keep my job)?

Q: I've worked at a fairly conservative firm for years and have always brought opposite-sex "dates" to parties. But now that I am partnered with a wonderful woman I'd like to come out, but how?

A: Congratulations on your new romance. Having a significant other is often the impetus for people to come out at work because being in a couple makes the issue seem more concrete--at least to your colleagues--and there are more ways to bring the subject up. You don't even have to say, "I'm a lesbian," for instance, because it will be clear that she's your girlfriend if you introduce her as such.

But first, consider the pros and cons of coming out at work. Let's start with the pros:

- You won't have the stress of living in the closet or worrying about switching pronouns at the last moment any more.
- You can talk openly about your relationship.
- You may make deeper friendships by being honest with your coworkers.

On the other side:

- You may lose your job or otherwise be discriminated against (i.e., run up against the pink ceiling).
- Your colleagues may not accept you in the way that you hope, and that could hinder your work performance.
- You may find that lgbt partners are not treated the same as heterosexual spouses.

Before making a final decision, find out whether your company has a nondiscrimination policy that includes sexual orientation and gender identity. See if there is an lgbt affinity group in your workplace that can provide you with guidance and support. Still, I'm in no way trying to dissuade you from coming out - in fact just the opposite--but do your due diligence.

How can I be out without causing problems for my kids?

Q: I have two kids in junior high who already don't want to have anything to do with me or their other mother - not because we're gay, just because we're their. We purposely don't wear our T-shirts that say, "We're Here, We're Queer," but do wonder how out can we be without causing problems for them?

A: That can be a tricky age for kids. Any difference makes you suspect. A foreign accent. An idiosyncratic haircut. Same-sex parents. Needless to say, the answer to this question depends to some degree on where you live. For families in the Castro, Greenwich Village, and other gayborhoods, it's fair to say that LGBT parents are not just common but ubiquitous.

But for parents and kids in areas where LGBT families are less visible, it makes sense to deploy a step-by-step coming out strategy. First, take stock of your new neighbors and figure out who has kids more or less the same age as yours. Much as you may have done when you first came out, befriend three or four of them who you think might be welcoming. Invite them and their kids over for some sort of function--a birthday party, summer BBQ, or the like. More likely than not, you'll soon find yourself being welcomed as a family into your neighborhood circle. At the same time, make an appointment with your kids' teachers so that they can introduce you to other LGBT parents in the school as well as keep an eye open for any trouble - especially anti-gay bullying (because of your sexual orientation). And, of course, talk with your kids directly about their own feelings regarding your sexuality.

Do I have to be labeled?

Q: I'm a guy who's had a couple of relationships with other guys, but I've also had two girlfriends. So, I'm not exactly sure if I'm gay, but I know that I'm different. Everyone I know seems to care about labels - "straight," "gay," "bi" - but I'm just not sure what to call myself. What should I be telling people?

A: First of all, you don't need to tell anyone anything. How you define yourself is your business and just because someone is asking you a question doesn't mean you should feel obligated to answer it. If a friend or family member asks you a direct question about your sexuality, you can reply, with a smile: "Thanks for asking, but I prefer to keep my private life private." You don't need to be snarky, just firm.

But as you've noticed, our culture values labels - whether it comes to race (black, white, Asian), politics (red or blue state), or sexuality (gay, straight, bi).

Things aren't always that clear, however. A recent study of non-straight young people asked them how they define themselves sexually. The results suggested that more than 7 out of 10 endorsed the usual sexual identity labels (gay, lesbian and bisexual), but 10 percent, those like you, showed resistance to those labels or fluidity in their sexual identities. Thirteen percent reported they were "questioning" their sexual identities. So, take comfort that you're in a sizeable minority - a minority that is often referred to as "post-gay," and, in fact, should probably be considered avant-garde in having rejected sexual identity labels.

Steven Petrow is the author of The Essential Book of Gay Manners & Etiquette. Find him on the web at www.gayandlesbianmanners.com

The
KEYSTONE CONFERENCE
A Celebration of Gender Diversity

TransCentralPA to Host 2010 Keystone Conference

TransCentralPA will host "A Celebration of Gender Diversity," at the Harrisburg Sheraton hotel March 11-13. "We promise an informative, inspirational and wonderful time among members and supporters of the transgender community," says Jeanine Ruhsam, president of the organization.

The Keystone Conference treats event attendees to varied and meaningful workshops and seminars with three nights of social functions, organizers says. The finale is Sat., March 13 with the Keystone Gala dinner and dance in the Sheraton ballroom.

TransCentralPA has been serving the transgender community in central Pennsylvania since 1989. The organization is committed to providing education and caring support for transgendered individuals, their significant others, families, friends and allies.

The organization is actively involved in maintaining an outreach program to provide gender education to businesses, organizations, educational institutions and governmental agencies. "We are active socially and educationally here in the northern and mid-Atlantic region and have earned a reputation as one of the most active, fun and 'with it' transgender organizations in the U.S.," Ruhsam says.

As the keystone bridges and holds together associated entities, trans- identifying people do the same. The Keystone Conference is a celebration of the unique diversity of gender and our central and unifying place in it, Ruhsam says. Pennsylvania is known as the Keystone State because of its significance in unifying the early colonies, and it is quite relevant that we hold this conference here at our home in the state's capitol. Make plans to join the event.

Workshop topics include: Changing Perspectives of Relationships, Correcting Identity Documents: A How To; Feminizing The Male Face without the Surgery, Gender Reassignment Surgery, Hormonal Treatments for Transgender People,

Walking Gracefully and other Feminine Movements, Top and Bottom Surgery, Trans Couples Workshop: My Significant Other is Trans...!, The Neurobiological Evidence for Transgenderism, Options For Medical Treatment of Trans Youth, Mother Says To Be a Lady, The Spectrum of Trans-Identity: Where Do I Fit In, and What Are My Options?, Successful Workplace Gender Transitions, The Truth about Laser Treatments, Transgender Spirituality, Transgender Victories & Challenges, Transgender Youth, Unique Issues for Trans Youth, Walking in Both Worlds, Young and Trans, Trans-Parents: Coming Out to Your Children, Self Confidence Rocks!, Practical Self Defense for the Trans-Community, Who Are You and Who's on Your Team, Facial Feminization Surgery: Options & Results, Sharing Our True Selves Story, Strategies for Minimizing Loss in Gender Transition, Speech/Language Gestural Communication Differences in Males and Females, An Extraordinary Ordinary Life: Living as Myself, Transgender Transition Spirituality, Faith and Transgender = Oil and Water, In My Own Words: Effective Ways to Tell Your Story, Mentoring Trans-Youth: Establishing a Program, And Her Brain" The Gender Edge Collective, The Men's Room.

There are various conference packages available, see the website for details. Workshop times and other event information is also on the website.

Info: www.TransCentralPA.org/keystone.htm; info@TransCentralPA.org.

Study Says Same-Sex Marriage Adds $200 Million, 1,400 Jobs

A Williams Institute study estimates the impact of New Jersey extending marriage to same-sex couples means money and jobs.

The report estimates that extending marriage to same-sex couples may boost the New Jersey economy by almost $200 million during the next three years, creating approximately 1,400 jobs and generating over $15 million in revenues for the state budget.

The estimate is based on both US Census data from states that have extended marriage to same-sex couples and a survey of Massachusetts gay couples asking them to report how much they spent on their weddings.

This is the fourth analysis of the fiscal impact of extending the rights and obligations of marriage to same-sex couples conducted by the Williams Institute for New Jersey. Prior studies analyzed the impact of New Jersey's domestic partnership and civil union laws. In the summer of 2008, the Institute presented an analysis of the fiscal impact of marriage to the New Jersey Civil Union Commission.

"The new report takes into account the changing legal landscape and the recession," says study co-author Brad Sears, Williams Institute executive director. "When we conducted our last analysis in 2008, New Jersey would have only competed with one other state in attracting out-of-state same-sex couples seeking to marry. Now same-sex couples can marry in five other states." The recession has also reduced the amount that couples in the United States and New Jersey spend, on average, on their weddings. Sears testified about the new analysis before the New Jersey Senate Judiciary Committee last December. The marriage legislation was passed by a 7-6 vote.

The new report also takes into account that New York same-sex couples now have a greater incentive to come to New Jersey to marry. "While the legislature did not extend marriage to same-sex couples this month, the New York Court of Appeals recently upheld the decision of state agencies to recognize the relationships of New York same-sex couples who marry in other states" says study co-author Christopher Ramos. "This makes it likely that many New York couples will make the short trip to New Jersey to marry."

This new estimate only includes direct spending by same-sex couples on their weddings, and tourism spending by out-of-state couples who travel to marry in New Jersey and the guests of in-state couples who marry. It does not include spending by family members and friends on gifts or by those traveling within New Jersey to attend weddings. The estimate also does not include the standard multiplier for tourism spending, that each $1 spent in the state generates over $2 in additional spending. "If these factors are taken into account," says Sears, "the total impact on the New Jersey could be close to half a billion dollars.
Report: www.law.ucla.edu/williamsinstitute/home.html

NJ Chorus Joins Harrisburg Men's Chorus April 10

Imagine 50 men singing: "We stand before you as men who love men!" says David Walker, Harrisburg Men's Chorus artistic director.

That's exactly what will happen Sat., April 10 at Market Square Presbyterian Church when the local chorus hosts a joint concert with the New Jersey Gay Men's Chorus. The groups join forces for several combined numbers, including "Come Share Our Pride," the inspiration for the concert's title."

"Imagine the affirmation. Imagine the emotion. Imagine the harmony on stage and in the audience," says Walker.

The combined concert begins at 8 p.m. .

Info on guest chorus: www.njgmc.org/press.htm.

Benefit Raises $3,300 for Silent Witnesses

Man Behind the Curtain Productions reports that the Silent Witness Peacekeepers Alliance fundraiser "Holidays on the Rocks," raised $3,300 for the volunteer organization. A snow storm pushed the event from Dec. 19 to Dec. 26 but audience response remained strong.

The variety show featured singers, dancers, some of the region's best drag performers, an extremely talented fiddle player and many others. "Of course there was one act that, as Hostess Shawna Alexander explained, prevented the use of the term "Talent Show" and caused the whole night to be classified a 'Variety Show,'" explained Greg King. "If you were not in attendance then you will just have to wonder why many in the audience thought this tragic duo 'stole the show,'" King said.

Students from the Dickinson College Gender and Sexual Identity Class also created three informative videos about the Silent Witnesses which will be used for education, training and fundraising in the future. The Students also raised more than $1,000 in contributions to the event.

"All who participated and attended said they had a great time no matter which side of the stage curtain they were on. They'll all looking forward to the event again in December of 2010," King said. "Many thanks to the wonderful performers, folks who worked behind the scenes and those organizations and individuals who donated items to the Silent Auction but especially the audience who made it all a success."

Videos on thecentralvoice.ning.com

Find these videos on thecentralvoice.ning.com
- 2010 Black and White Party
- Pray Away the Gay – Part 1 & 2
- "The Butch Factor" movie trailer
- "One Iowa" pro same-sex marriage commercial
- "The Bible is True!" - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bGoYbjzy8-s

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Chamber Holds Annual Meeting

"We're now three years old and moving forward," said Russ Boggs, president, Central Pennsylvania Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce. About 70 members and guests gather at Lancaster's historic Hamilton Club Jan. 21.

From 2008 to 2009, corporate membership revenue increased 129%. Individual membership revenue increased 10%. Non-profit membership revenue increased 56%. Professional membership revenue increased 50%. Business membership revenue increased 321%. As of Dec. 31, 2009, total income was up 23% while expenses increased 32%. Overall net income remained consistent from year to year, chamber information indicates.

Sponsors for the evening included The Hershey Company, Hershey Entertainment and Resorts, Jeffrey's Flowers, Members 1st FCU. Special guests included keynote speaker Kate Karasmeighan and Paul Hengesteg, National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce; Bill Gehrman, president, Philadelphia Independence Business Alliance. Pianist Anthony Haubart provided music.

The lgbt business community can learn from the experience of other groups Karasmeighan said. "In the Asian community, a dollar changes hands 11 times within the Asian community before moving out into the general community. The lgbt community needs to learn that same lesson by supporting each other," she stressed.

Chamber vice president Deb McClain reviewed chamber activity. Deb Bixler, Frank Carano, Jeff Clouser, Michael D. Harris, Jr., and David Zwifka were presented with service awards. Alex Reber was also recognized for his assistance to Shannon Rupp with the accounting system. Special thanks was issued to George M. Fernandez for the commissioning and donation of an oil painting for the office. This painting was done by local artist Anthony Smolenski.

The 2010 board of directors: President, Russell A. Boggs; Vice-President, Debra L. McClain, Insurance Service Representative, Wells Fargo Insurance Services USA, Inc., Treasurer, Shannon R. Shupp, Financial Advisor, Met Life Securities, Inc.; Secretary, Deborah L. Gable; Director of Education, Planned Parenthood of Central Pennsylvania; Hector Alvarez, Catering Sales Manager, Four Points by Sheraton;Seth H. Hamill, Marketing Director, Posh Studio; William N. Krenz, Senior Operations Technical Specialist/ Network Wireless Product Manager, HP; George M. Fernandez, President, George M. Fernandez Development & Consultation Services; Dennis B. Wimer, Professor, Harrisburg Area Community College Lancaster and Lebanon Campuses.

Deborah Cox Headlines Black & White Party

deborah cox
the promise

Superstar Deborah Cox headlines the May 7 Black & White Party at Club XS.

"Cox is the highest level of entertainment ever offered by Club XS. We're glad that the event brings her here to help us raise money to fight HIV/AIDS," says benefit lead organizer Charles Oswald. Cox's appearance is expected to draw people from Maryland, Delaware, and far outside the south central Pennsylvania region.

Cox's song "Nobody's Supposed to Be Here" held the record for longest-running number one single on Billboard's Hot R&B/Hip-Hop Singles & Tracks chart (14 weeks), a record held for nearly eight years. The Canadian superstar has achieved ten number-one hits on Billboard's Hot Dance Club Play chart.

Her song "Beautiful UR" is the number one work out song for 2010 according to Marie Claire magazine.

"Our board of directors and volunteers are pumped!" exclaims Oswald, originator of what has been called "the best party you'll ever attend". Man Behind the Curtain Productions is helping The Black and White Party, Inc to produce the entertainment this year.

In its fourth year, The Black and White Party is Friday, May 7, 6 p.m. to closing at York's Club XS, where Oswald is manager. This year's theme is "Alice in Boogie Wonderland" which sets the pace for the event's talked-about inside and outside entertainment settings.

All funds raised support HIV/AIDS programs in the region through York's Family First and The AIDS Fund of South Central Pennsylvania, which funds programs throughout the entire region.

To date, the event has raised $52,000 to support local programs. The AIDS Fund is also affiliated with the National AIDS Fund (NAF) which provides matching dollars to the funds raised locally. The AIDS Fund is the only such endeavor in Pennsylvania with a "matching funds" relationship with NAF. "When you purchase a ticket or make a donation, you dollar goes a long way with our fundraiser," Oswald says.

The event draws in dozens of volunteers each year to staff the indoor and outdoor entertainment.

"Chris Quigley, who directs the inside entertainment, and Chad-Alan Carr who will direct the outside entertainment, are ready to wow the pants off of you! Plus we always have a big name act to top off the evening," Oswald says. Past performers have included RuPaul, CeeCee Peniston, and Sarah Bernhardt.

The popular event is as well-produced outside Club XS as inside the establishment.

Outside there will be tents and stages and costumed characters reflecting the theme. Partygoers stroll through a Silent Auction, sample food provided by dozens of local restaurants, and enjoy outside stage entertainment – all part of the ticket price which also includes Cox's appearance.

Tickets online: https://www.mycommunitytickets.com/event_info.asp?eventid=26424

Info: www.theblackandwhiteparty.com.

See Video on Black & White Party @ thecentralvoice.ning.com

LGBT Community Center Announces FAB 2010 Co-Chairs

After several months of searching, the LGBT Community Center announced the new Co-Chairs of FAB in 2010.

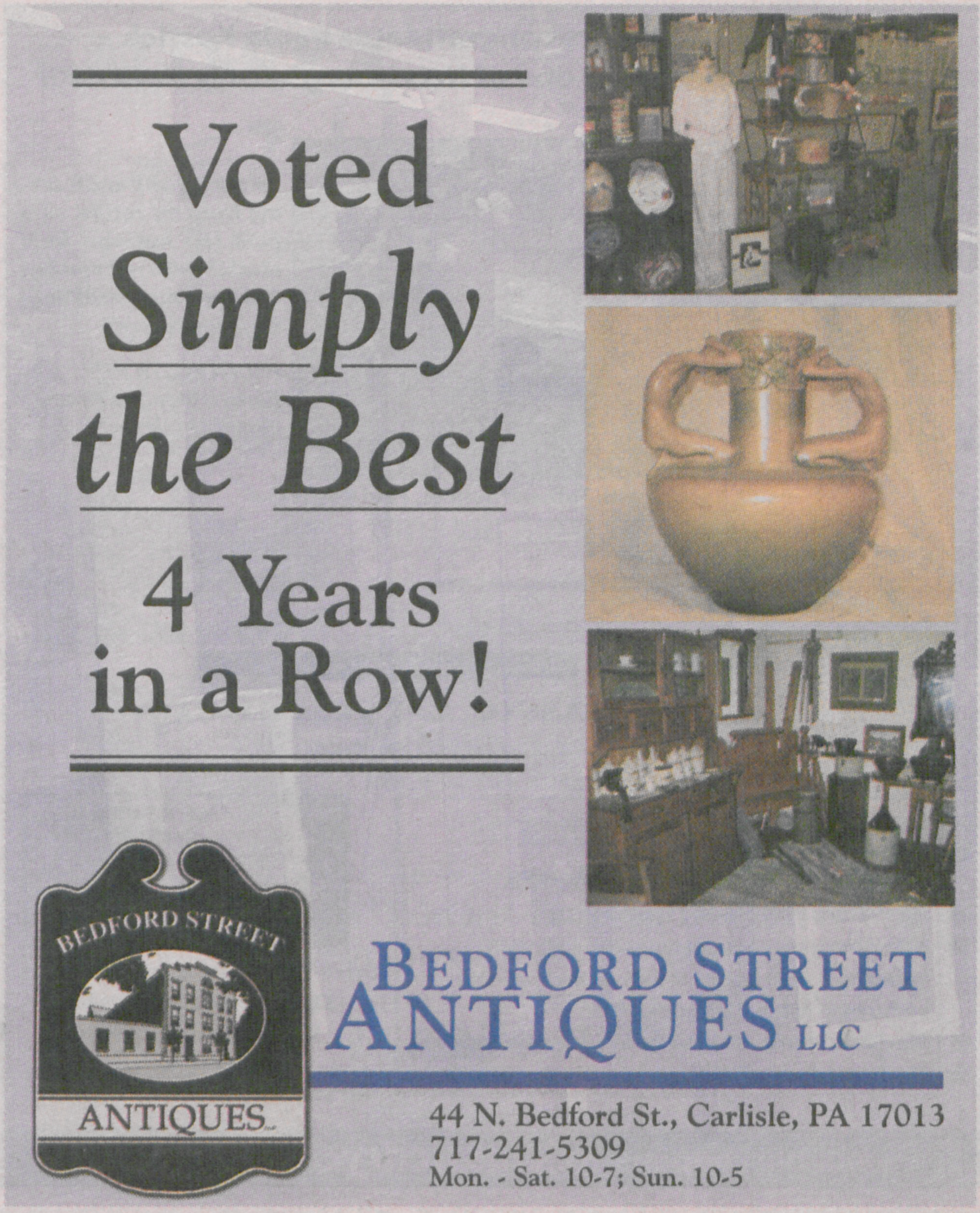
Heading up the sponsorship and ad sales effort will be Marsha Davis and Elizabeth Mullaugh. Both women bring a wealth of fundraising experience to the FAB Planning Committee and an enthusiasm to promote the work that the center is doing in central Pennsylvania.

Working with Davis and Mullaugh will be David Everett and Bill Wollyung who will head up the logistics for the event. Wollyung has been organizing events at his home and in the community for several years, including private parties benefitting Art Association of Harrisburg, Common Roads and the center.

Everett is an event planner and designer with JDK Group and has won many awards for his event planning. Most notably Everett was responsible for catering at the Olympic Village in Beijing and has received the Rising Star award.

The center is excited about the slate of leaders chosen to lead FAB 2010. Volunteers are encouraged to join the effort. "Regardless of your talents there is a need for what you have to offer," says Sean Maloney, of the center.

Info: 717-920-9534 or smaloney@centralpalgbtcenter.org.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April 2 - May 6
4-ARTIST INVITATIONAL EXHIBITION
Opening Reception Friday, April 2 5-8 pm
Featuring photos, sculptures, acrylics and watercolours by Raymond Bell, Mary Lee Kerr, Kathryn Elizabeth Noska and Quentin Walter.

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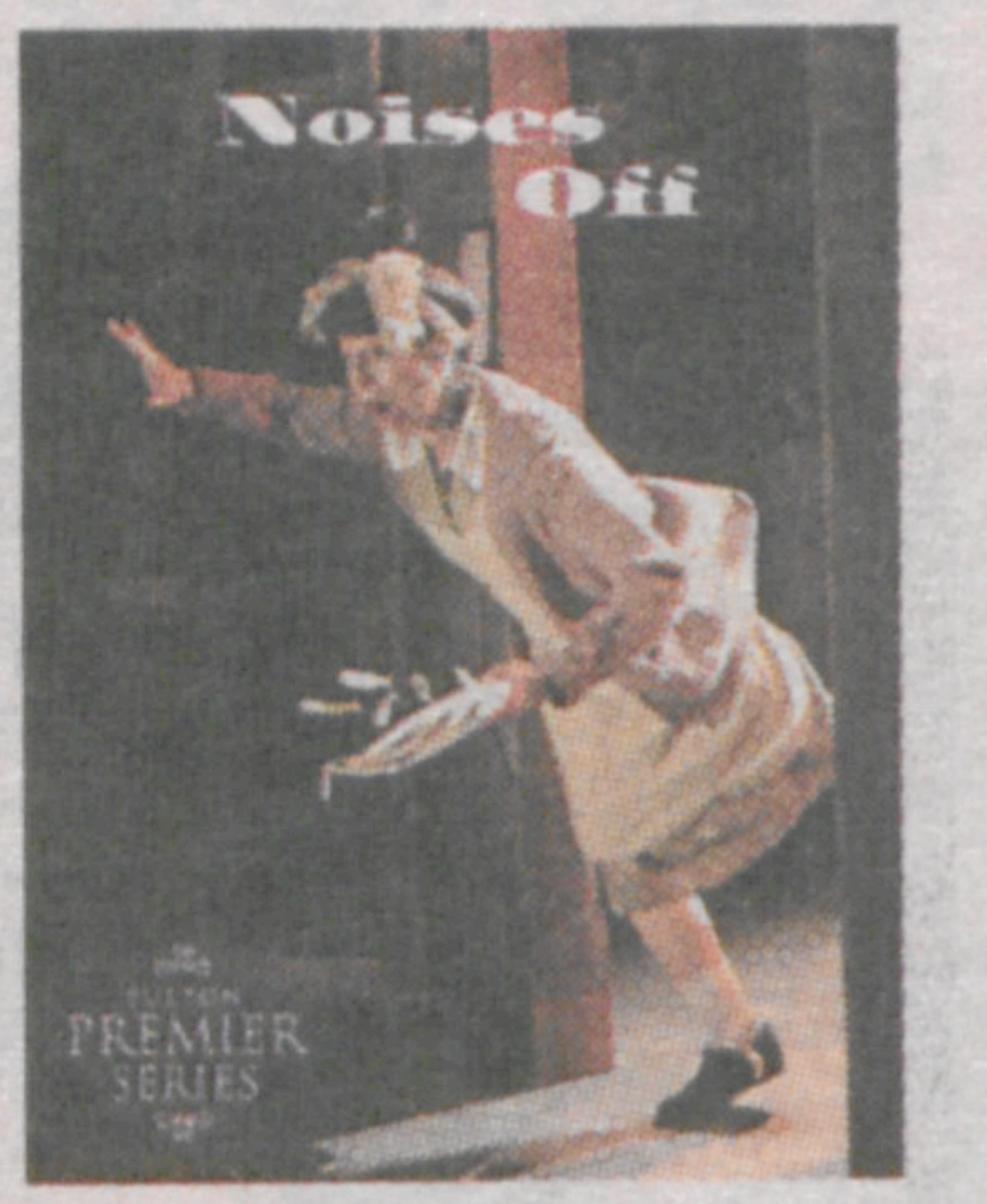

Noises Off
By Michael Frayn
March 11 - 28
With breakneck pace and a rich gallery of characters, Michael Frayn's brilliantly witty farce follows the on- and off-stage antics of a touring company as they stumble from dress rehearsal to disastrous last night of the comedy, Nothing On. Everything that can go wrong does, as the cast members desperately try to maintain composure sabotaging their fellow actors... resulting in a terrifying descent into chaos. Missed cues, broken backstage romances, and a very slippery plate of sardines all form part of this riotous, madcap comedy that will get everyone caught in the act! The New York Times critic Frank Rich called it "the funniest play written in my lifetime."
12 North Prince Street, Lancaster, PA 17608-1865; Box Office: 717-397-7425; info@thefulton.org

KESWICK THEATRE

KEITH EMERSON & GREG LAKE
April 2, 8 p.m.
In a completely new, never-before-done show, Keith Emerson and Greg Lake invite you to celebrate an intimate evening of music and storytelling. Audiences can expect new perspectives as well as new arrangements of classic favorites as Keith and Greg relate the stories of their songs and discuss the compositions and people that influenced the celebrated music the two created with the progressive rock bands that began a rock and roll era: King Crimson, the Nice, and Emerson Lake and Palmer.
Ticket: $35, $45,$55; Ticketmaster.com, 1-800-745-3000; keswicktheatre.com; 215-572-7650.

WHITAKER CENTER

David Garrett Returns to Whitaker Center
Whitaker Center Presents at the Forum
March 30, 7p.m.
Tickets: $32.50, $40

Following an amazing sold-out show last fall, Whitaker Center proudly welcomes the return of internationally acclaimed violinist David Garrett, for an encore performance in Harrisburg. Combining years of classical music training with mainstream pop and rock music. Garrett's performances pay unique and equal homage to Metallica and Mozart. His daring journey from classical prodigy to a mature and highly adventurous artist has been personally fulfilling, and also resonates with enormous worldwide acclaim.
Tickets: 717-214-ARTS (2787)

HERSHEY THEATRE

A Chorus Line
March 9-14

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Tickets: $75, $70, $65, $60, $55, $25
Tues.-Thurs.: 7:30 p.m.; Fri. 8 p.m.; Sat. 2 & 8 p.m.; Sun. 2 & 7 p.m.

The Greatest Story Ever Told
March 21, 2 p.m.

The star-studded retelling of the story of Jesus, The Greatest Story Ever Told will be shown on Sunday, March 21 at 2:00 PM. This 1965 film stars Max von Sydow, Carroll Baker, Jose Ferrer, Van Heflin, Charlton Heston, Martin Landau, Angela Lansbury, Pat Boone, David McCallum, Roddy McDowall, Dorothy McGuire, Sal Mineo, Sidney Poitier, Claude Rains, Telly Savalas, John Wayne, Shelley Winters, Ed Wynn, Robert Blake, Jamie Farr and Robert Loggia. It was nominated for 5 Oscars for Excellence in cinema.
Tickets: $7 each or six-packs for $30; these tickets will be valid for the entire 2009-2010 season
717-534-3405
1-800-745-3000
HersheyTheatre.com.

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POPCORN HAT PLAYERS

Beauty and the Beast
March 17 - April 3

The young magician, Merlin, has lost his magic, and his self-centered master has turned into a Beast! They live a lonely life until one night two strangers, including the smart and beautiful Bonita, happen upon their castle. Watch as the Popcorn Hat Players use music and magic to tell the classic tale of how opposites attract. Will it end happily ever after? We hope so...

continued on next page >

Grease National Tour at Hershey Theatre

GREASE
is the word!

The new Broadway production of the Tony Award® nominated musical GREASE™ is headed to Hershey Theatre from Tuesday, April 20 through Sunday, April 25. Tickets are currently on sale.

The producers are pleased to announce Ace Young has joined the tour as Danny. Ace Young made his Broadway debut in GREASE™ in the role of "Kenickie" last fall. An "American Idol" finalist in Season 5 and a Grammy nominated songwriter, Ace has guest-starred on Fox's "Bones," co-hosted "American Idol Extra" and co-produced his debut album, Ace Young.

"American Idol" Season 5 winner Taylor Hicks continues to star as "Teen Angel." Taylor Hicks made his debut on Broadway in the role. He achieved widespread fame in 2006 as a contestant on the hugely successful FOX singing competition "American Idol."

After spending a hopelessly devoted summer with Sandy Dumbrowski, the new girl in town, Danny Zuko's world is thrown upside down when Sandy appears at Rydell High on the first day of school. What follows is a rock n' roll celebration of growin' up, cruisin' with friends and goin' steady.

Ace Young

Taylor Hicks

The new production of GREASE™ features songs from the smash hit 1978 motion picture for the first time ever in a Broadway production including "Sandy," the Academy Award nominated song "Hopelessly Devoted to You," "Grease" and "You're the One That I Want" - both of which were #1 hits on the Billboard Top 100 list. These songs will be heard in addition to the Jacobs/Casey songs made famous by the original stage production: "Summer Nights," "Greased Lightnin'" and "We Go Together." Please note: Ace Young will not be in the performances on Thursday, Friday, or Saturday.

Info: greaseontour.com; Tickets $80, $75, $70, $65, $60, $25 or box office; 717-534-3405, 1-800-745-3000, Ticketmaster, Ticketmaster.com and HersheyTheatre.com.

REVIEWS

BOOKS
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LEELA JAMES
MY SOUL

Leela James
Leela James digs into the roots of soul. From the very first track on her 2005 debut album Leela James has captured the gritty, emotion-drenched essence of artists like Aretha Franklin, Stevie Wonder, Mavis Staples, Marvin Gaye and has made it her mission to bring it all back – pushing the music forward with a fresh, contemporary perspective that remains faithful to the music's deep and powerful roots. My Soul marks Leela James' debut on Stax Records, a division of Concord Music Group.

LITTLE BOOTS
HANDS

Little Boots
British dance-pop sensation Little Boots released her much- anticipated full-length album debut, "HANDS" in the U.S. and Canada on Elektra Records. The work features the hit songs "Stuck on Repeat", "New In Town" and current single, "Remedy" which the NY Post recently praised as a "synth-pop gem" and named one of their "Top 209 songs of 2009."

SELENA GOMEZ

Selena Gomez
Selena Gomez took her sweet time before recording her debut album. After all, she had her hands full starring in her hit Disney Channel series "Wizards of Waverley Place," not to mention appearing in a string of movies and other TV shows. Still, music had been a core passion of hers going back to childhood. A child no more, Selena comes on strong with her Hollywood Records premiere CD, "Kiss & Tell." It is nothing less than the emancipation proclamation of a young artist with a lot to say.

arts & entertainment cont'd

Snow White
April 17, 2:30 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
The Popcorn Hat Players acting company take a back seat and let area students shine when they star in this beloved classic fairy tale! Students ages 5 through 18 are invited to audition to play a part in this singing and dancing extravaganza! Two performances only will take place at the beautiful Sunoco Theatre at the Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts. Directed and adapted by Melissa Nicholson and Ellie Alayne, based on the story by the Brothers Grimm. Reservations – (717) 238-4111; www.gamutplays.org

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Freedom to Marry Events Underscore Marriage Plight

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From a panel discussion at last month's PA Progressive Conference to a Capital rotunda press conference and ongoing debates. Freedom to Marry Events shed light on the issues surrounding same-sex marriage in Pennsylvania and nationwide. In recent events PA State Sen. John Eichelberger (R-30th Dist.) introduced Senate Bill 707 that would add to the Pennsylvania Constitution the language: "Only a union of one man and one woman shall be valid and recognized as marriage." PA State Sen. Daylin Leach (D-17th Dist.) has introduced a measure that seeks to legalize same-sex marriage in the Keystone State.

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Marriage Is A Civil Right
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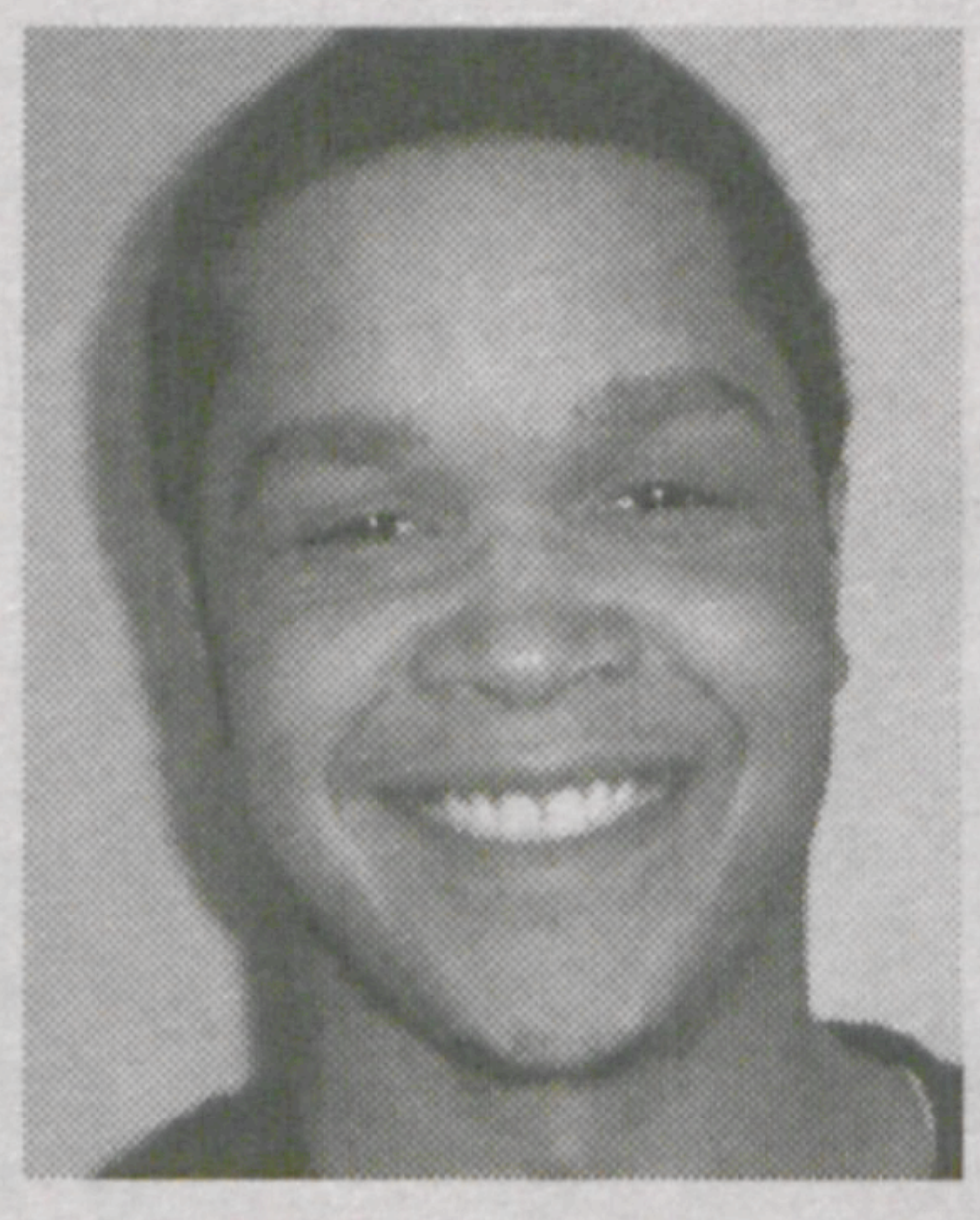
Do You Know Your HIV Status?

By Steven Palmer



You've probably seen the statistic by now: About one in five people living with HIV in the U.S. don't know they have it.

But there's another HIV stat that gets less publicity that's also relevant for gay guys (and others) concerned about their health: As many as 40% of people newly diagnosed with HIV are only a year away from getting a diagnosis of AIDS.

Which means that a lot of people are finding out they have HIV when they're already pretty sick, or close to it. And that less-talked-about number has taken on new significance with some recent changes to the U.S. guidelines for the treatment of HIV. The changes are pretty minor on the surface - more a swinging of the pendulum than a revolution. But the changes have implications not just for those living with HIV, but also for anyone who doesn't know their current HIV status.

Until the most recent set of guidelines, the recommendation was to begin HAART (Highly Active Anti Retroviral Therapy) when an HIV-positive person's CD4 count reached 350. A CD4 count of less than 200 results in an AIDS diagnosis, and possibly involves an AIDS defining opportunistic infection as well. An uninfected person, on the other end of the scale, has a CD4 count between 500 and 1500. CD4 cells perform important immune system functions, such as signaling other parts of the immune system to respond to infections. They're also the primary target for HIV, which uses them to manufacture more virus.

The new guidelines recommend treatment for HIV-positive persons with CD4 counts between 350 and 500. And for poz folks with counts in the 500-700 range, half of the panelists responsible for the guidelines recommended treatment, while half considered it optional. The decision regarding when to start meds, as always, is ultimately up to people living with HIV in consultation with their docs. The new guidelines reflect the fact that individuals living with HIV respond to treatment differently and are much more than a sum of their lab numbers.

For sexually active gay men, the changes in the guidelines mean that the mantra "early detection is the key to long-term survival" is more true than ever. It used to be that finding out you have HIV preserved most of your treatment options as long as your CD4 was 350 or greater at diagnosis. Now, the decision making process regarding HAART could potentially start quite a bit sooner, which would in turn necessitate finding out you have HIV sooner.

The new recommendations stem from several recent studies that show the benefits of starting treatment earlier. Waiting to start treatment evidently allows HIV to potentially cause liver and kidney damage, cardiovascular disease, cancers, and neurocognitive impairment that can be arrested by the initiation of HAART. In some ways, people with untreated HIV disease are getting older faster than those whose virus is effectively suppressed by meds.

To some extent, this represents a move in the direction of the "hit hard, hit early" approach to HIV treatment instituted in the mid-90's, when effective three-drug cocktails were in their infancy. It also represents a renewed challenge to sexually active gay men to seek testing regularly (CDC recommends at least once a year) in order to take full advantage of the significant treatment advances of recent years.

Contact: Steven Palmer @ steven@aca-pa.com; 717-233-7190. M4M is a component of AIDS Community Alliance.

Lancaster events

Local volunteer fire companies raise funds through what have affectionately come to be known as "Mud Sales". Fire company sales have been a regular event in Lancaster County since the mid-1960's. These auctions help local volunteer fire companies raise much-needed funds.

The late Winter and early Spring dates work out best for local farmers because they have more time available before the Spring planting. Since many of the items are sold outside during potentially muddy Spring conditions, these events have affectionately become known as "mud sales". Often auctions are held both inside and outside simultaneously. Sometimes numerous auctions take place at the same time throughout the grounds.

The items sold vary from auction to auction and include a wide variety of donated goods and consignment merchandise. Auctioned items often include furniture, craft items, quilts, building materials, livestock, buggies and carriages, tools, farming supplies and equipment, garden items, and much more. Plus, lots of good food. Come and enjoy!

Info: http://www.padutch.com/mud-sales.shtml

MCC column

MCC Hosts Monthly Dinner for People Living with HIV

By Rev. Charles Tigard

Charles Tigard

As a relative newcomer to the lgbt community in Harrisburg, I've been blessed to be part of the strength of our community.

Every month the volunteer teams at MCC host a community dinner for those living with HIV/AIDS. It's our way of giving back to the community, serving clients with dignity and respect.

The gathering is an opportunity for families and families of choice to build community and receive information on how to live well with HIV/AIDS. Often the meal begins with a short presentation from an HIV educator with information and community resources.

The Sharing Our Caring dinner began as a program of South Central AIDS Network (SCAN). Later the meal was coordinated by Saint Stephens Episcopal Church.

Today the meal is still an opportunity for various community groups to volunteer.

As part of our mission, MCC is dedicated to building partnerships with community groups and non profits. We coordinate the monthly meal with various sponsors, including other area churches, AIDS service organizations, and community educators.

Sharing Our Caring is much more than a meal. It's an opportunity to build and strengthen community. The program is indebted to our volunteers who give countless hours every month.

You can partner with us by spreading the word about the monthly program or volunteering. Plan on joining us for the next two dinners on Monday March 8 and Monday April 12 at 6:30pm.

The truth is MCC has been blessed by the program. Our Sharing Our Caring clients remind us why we are here, to be of service to those who need us most.

If you would like more information on ways your group can be involved, please contact Metropolitan Community Church info@MCCoftheSpirit.org 717-236-7397

Rev. Charles Tigard serves as Interim Pastor of Metropolitan Community Church of the Spirit, Harrisburg. MCCoftheSpirit.org.

Hepatitis A & B are preventable!

At your next medical appointment, ask your doctor about the vaccines.

Take time to learn about your health. HIV and Hepatitis are 100% preventable. Take steps to reduce your risk. Use condoms, talk to your partners about HIV and STDs and get tested regularly.

Men4Men (M4M) is a program dedicated to the health and wellness of gay, bisexual and questioning men in South Central PA. M4M is a project of AIDS Community Alliance. For more information visit myspace.com/acam4m or call 1.800.867.1550.

Men4Men is funded in part by The AIDS Fund of South Central PA, FHCCP and Highmark.

by Andrew Collins

Brussels Belgium

As the headquarters of NATO and the European Union, Brussels ranks among the most international and sophisticated cities in the world. Though founded in the seventh century, Brussels is a remarkably modern metropolis, the capital of a progressive, relatively young country (Belgium celebrates its 180th birthday in 2010) that passed gay-marriage legislation in 2003. It's also a dynamic hub of modern architecture, cutting-edge fashion and fine shopping, and it has a sterling reputation among foodies.

Brussels hosts a well-attended Lesbian and Gay Pride celebration each May as well as a first-rate gay and lesbian film festival each January. The city is also home to the International Lesbian and Gay Association. In addition to Flemish and French, English is widely spoken and understood here. And although the euro is currently faring poorly against the U.S. dollar (as of late fall 2009, 1 euro traded at about US$1.50), Brussels is less expensive than many major European capitals.

The city is divided into two, Upper Town and Lower Town. The latter begins just east of rue Royale, where a fairly steep slope rises just beyond the city's 1,000-year-old historic core. Most of the wealthy neighborhoods, fancy shopping and grand hotels are in Upper Town, as are several museums. The neighborhood also has stunning art nouveau architecture – the work of Victor Horta (1861-1947) and his pupils, who designed hundreds of townhouses whose sensuous facades are decorated with the style's characteristic sinewy ironwork. You can learn more about Horta and the city's art nouveau legacy by visiting the Horta Museum (set inside his former home) or by logging on to www.brussels-art-nouveau.be.

Lower Town is characterized in part by working-class neighborhoods, some of which have

continued on next page >

Out of Town cont'd

undergone major revitalizations in recent years, and in part by one of the best-preserved medieval quarters of any major city in Europe. The main plaza, Grand Place, contains dozens of ancient buildings and narrow lanes, and it buzzes with energy. It's also near Brussels' small but vibrant gay district, centered around rue du Marche au Charbon and rue des Pierres, near the Bourse.

Facing Grand Place you'll find see the magnificent Hotel de Ville (City Hall) and many ornate guild halls, all built in the elaborate baroque style of the late 1600s. Also nearby the Museum of Costume and Lace contains a fine collection of beautifully crafted lace, a product for which Belgium is justly celebrated. Just off the square, rue Charles Buls leads to rue des Brasseurs, where poet Paul Verlaine shot and wounded his lover, fellow poet Arthur Rimbaud, in 1873. Walk along rue de l'Etuve to the corner of rue du Chene to see Manneken Pis, a statue of a pudgy little boy peeing into a fountain - this beloved tourist attraction and photo op has been a source of curiosity for centuries.

Here it's a short stroll southeast to the lower slopes of Upper Town to reach the Royal Museum of Fine Arts, which combines two museums – one dedicated to Flemish-Dutch painting traditions, dating from the 15th to 19th centuries, and the other to more modern works, such as paintings by Belgian surrealists James Ensor and Rene Magritte. The museums overlook the supremely elegant Place Royale, a fittingly lavish 18th-century square that acts as gateway to Upper Town's posh residential and shopping districts.

For the best antiquing and cafe-hopping, wander around the streets emanating from the Grand Sablon, another ritzy square. Continue toward the monolithic Palais de Justice, and turn left to reach avenue Louise, where you'll discover yet more high-end shopping.

Brussels is very much a city of gardens and parks, and many neighborhoods are also punctuated by verdant squares abloom with flowers. Favorite places to stroll, jog, or simply relax on a bench to soak up the sunshine include Brussels Park, near the Royal Palace, and the sprawling Parc du Cinquantenaire, which is home to some prominent museums.

You can maximize your sightseeing value by purchasing a Brussels Card, which costs 19 euros for one day (32 euros for three) and entitles the bearer to free use of public transportation and admission to some 30 museums, plus discounts to numerous attractions and shops. You can purchase this online at www.brusselscard.be.

Whatever you've heard about fine chocolates in Switzerland and Germany, Belgium arguably produces the most sublime chocolates in the world. Brussels in particular is teeming with purveyors of this addictive treat. Two shops worth checking out are Wittamer and Pierre Marcolini, both of which produce high-end, artful truffles and have tony shops along Upper Town's Grand Sablon. But the relatively less expensive and ubiquitous Belgian chain, Leonidas, is excellent, too. You should also consider a visit to Planete Chocolate, which is steps from the gay district and produces delicious artisanal chocolates.

Brussels not only excels in fine French fare but also in regional Flemish fare. Classic dishes found at many local eateries include waterzooi (a rich chicken stew), rabbit with beer and prunes, and mussels with frites (French fries). Festive and friendly Au Stekerlaplatte restaurant turns out astoundingly delicious and authentic Belgian food. It's just up a narrow lane in quasi-gentrified Marolles District from rue Haute, which has a handful of worthy antiques shops and home-furnishings stores.

Another great purveyor of traditional Belgian fare, Le Pre Sale serves up superb traditional Belgian seafood in the St. Catherine area. If it's truly a special occasion, book a table at the acclaimed Comme chez Soi, a temple of haute cuisine that's garnered three stars from Michelin and serves truly inspired food. Among hip Upper Town haunts, Lola serves pretty, modern food to pretty, modern people – it's popular with the see-and-be-seen crowd.

Brussels is where the fast-growing gourmet coffeehouse and cafe Le Pain Quotidien began, and there are outposts of this inviting spot set throughout the city. You'll find particularly appealing the branches along avenue Louise, close to high-end shopping and along funky rue Antoine Dansaert.

Bar-going in Brussels tends to be sedate, but there's no shortage of inviting and cozy options. The city's more up-and-coming nightlife areas, the St. Catherine and St. Gery districts, have dozens of cool, artsy, intellectual bars that pull in a mostly straight crowd, but also plenty of gays and lesbians, too. Some worth poking your head inside include Monk and de Walvis.

In Upper Town, beer lovers should check out Le Bier Circus, which carries a huge selection of this beverage for which the country is known – in fact, Belgium produces some 400 beers. For more on this national preoccupation, visit www.beer2005.be.

Only a few blocks from St. Catherine and St. Gery, you will find the city's mini gay hub. Good bets include Le Belgica, a cozy tavern that draws a mix of women and men, and TelsQuels Cafe, which functions both as a bar and the city's gay and lesbian community center. Fans of drag shows shouldn't miss the campy fun at Chez Maman. Le Boys Boudoir is a fun little piano cabaret and restaurant that appeals to guys of all ages, and Le Duquesnoy caters to a rugged leather-and-Levi's bunch. Laid-back L'Homo Erectus packs them in each night with funky music and a friendly staff.

There's also a very popular gay bathhouse in this area, Macho Sauna, and another with a considerable following not far away called Sauna Spades 4. Brussels may seem more conservative, at least in style, than London or Berlin, but saunas are quite well-attended in this city, and very welcoming toward visitors.

There aren't many full-time gay discos in town, but Box nightclub is always a good bet for dancing into the wee hours. Also, you can count on a few monthly shindigs such as the famed La Demence, held on certain Fridays throughout the year and drawing partiers from all over the region.

Several intriguing, hip hotels have opened in Brussels in recent years. Be Manos, just a 15-minute walk south of Grand Place, is very close to Gare du Midi/Brussel-Zuid train station. Stylish, sleek rooms on this gay-friendly property are decorated with framed black-and-white photos, and bathrooms have high-end fixtures and products. The on-site restaurants, Be Lella and Kolya, serve very good food to a trendy crowd. The affordable Hotel Bloom is another favorite of artsy types, students and others with a yen for intriguing design. Private parking, proximity to the metro and Gare du Nord and a friendly, helpful staff are additional assets.

Across from the St. Catherine metro stop, the aptly named Hotel Welcome ranks among the loveliest small hotels in Brussels. Each of its 15 rooms is themed after a different nation, from the Congo to Morocco to Vietnam. Rooms contain beautiful artwork and decorations, and congenial hosts Michel, Sophie, and staff could not be friendlier and more helpful. A bountiful breakfast is included, and rates are highly reasonable.

Among larger international hotels, you can't go wrong with the Brussels Marriott, which opened in 2002 and has an enviable location near the funky Saint Catherine and Saint Gery neighborhoods. Of high-end hotels, Metropole is a restored belle époque beauty that dates to 1895 and is filled with ornate furnishings. It's also home to a chic, gay-popular cafe of the same name.

Spend a little time in Brussels, and you may soon realize that it's not just a convenient pass-through city on your way to Europe's gay meccas. Whether to shop, dine, museum-hop or even hobnob in convivial bars, this clean, friendly and reasonably priced city has much to offer.

Andrew Collins covers gay travel for the New York Times-owned Web site About.com and is the author of Fodor's Gay Guide to the USA. He can be reached care of this publication or at OutofTown@qsyndicate.com.

The Little Black Book

(Belgium's country code is 32)

- Au Stekerlaplatte (www.stekerlapatte.be)
- Be Manos (www.bemanos.be)
- Brussels Marriott (www.marriott.com/brudt)
- Le Belgica (www.lebelgica.be)
- Le Bier Circus (www.bier-circus.be)
- Box (www.boxclub.be)
- Chez Maman (www.chezmaman.be)
- Comme chez Soi (www.commechezsoi.be)
- Le Boys Boudoir (www.leboysboudoir.be)
- La Demence (www.lademence.com)
- Le Duquesnoy (www.duquesnoy.com)
- L'Homo Erectus (www.lhomoerectus.com)
- Hotel Bloom (www.hotelbloom.com)
- Hotel Welcome (www.brusselshotel.travel)
- Lola (www.restolola.be)
- Macho Sauna (www.saunamacho.com)
- Metropole (www.metropolehotel.com)
- Le Pain Quotidien (www.lepainquotidien.co)
- Planete Chocolate (www.planetechocolat.be)
- Sauna Spades 4 (www.saunaspades4.be)
- TelsQuels Cafe (www.telsquels.be)
- Tourism Flanders (www.visitflanders.com)
- Tourism Belgium (www.visitbelgium.com)

Feds Ask About LGBT Health Disparities

An Institute of Medicine (IOM) committee is preparing the federal government's first report on lgbt health and health disparities. The report will assess current scientific knowledge regarding the health of lgbt people, identify research gaps and opportunities related to lgbt health, and outline a research agenda that will assist the government in enhancing its research efforts in this area.

Public comments were taken until Feb. 1. Readers were notified of the comment period through thecentralvoice.ning.com.

The National Coalition for LGBT Health encouraged the community to make their voice heard by commenting on issues that the panel should take into consideration when preparing the report. Issues the panel is interested in include:

Gaps in current knowledge regarding lgbt health status, health risks, health disparities, and whether LGBT people have access to high-quality health care that takes all aspects of their lives into account.

The importance of family and social acceptance of sexual orientation and gender identity differences on the mental health and personal safety of lgbt people.

The need for research at the intersections of disparity factors such as race, ethnicity, age, geography, sexual orientation and gender identity to determine how overlapping disparities effect the health of lgbt people.

The effects of social determinants and cultural factors, including stigma, discrimination, and violence, on the physical and mental health of lgbt people.

The importance of counting the lgbt community by including questions about gender identity and sexual orientation on federal and state health surveys.

While data-based comments are helpful, we also suggest providing qualitative, "real life" feedback that vividly illustrates the impact of lgbt health disparities on members of our community.

Info: http://www8.natio alacademies.org/cp/feedback.aspx?key=49182&type=project

book review

Feeling Frisky?

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered
LGBT
Dauphin County Library System
Your Resource for LGBT Materials
www.dcls.org
LIBRARY

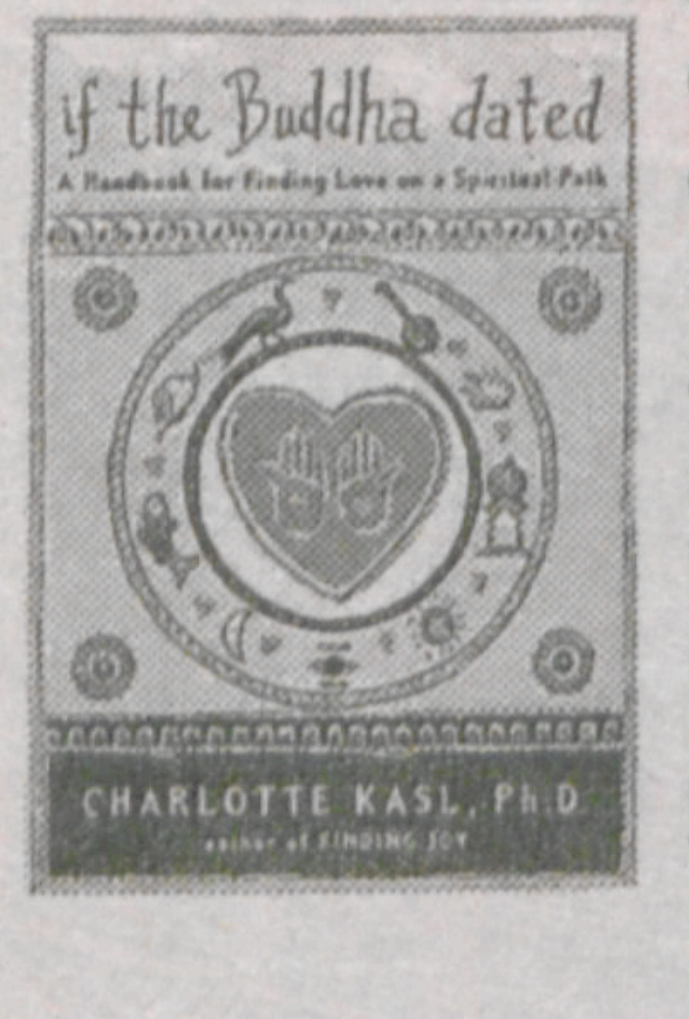
By Lewis Maurer
Dauphin County Library System

Is it time to spring clean your spiritual closet? Are you feeling frisky for romance? Try one of these books for inspiration.

If the Buddha Dated: A Handbook for Finding Love on a Spiritual Path

by Charlotte Sophia Kasl

Kasl brings a compassionate understanding to the anxiety and uneasiness of new love, and helps readers discover their potential for vibrant human connection based on awareness, kindness, and honesty. She approaches the dating process as a means for awakening, reminding us that when we live by spiritual rules, we bring curiosity and a light heart to the romantic journey. Filled with quotations from Zen, Sufi, and other wisdom traditions, and informed by the experiences of people from all walks of life, here is a relationship book that will appeal to readers looking for more than a Venus-meets-Mars solution to the complex affairs of the heart.



Lipstick's and Dipstick's Essential Guide to Lesbian Relationships

by Gina Daggett and Kathy Belge

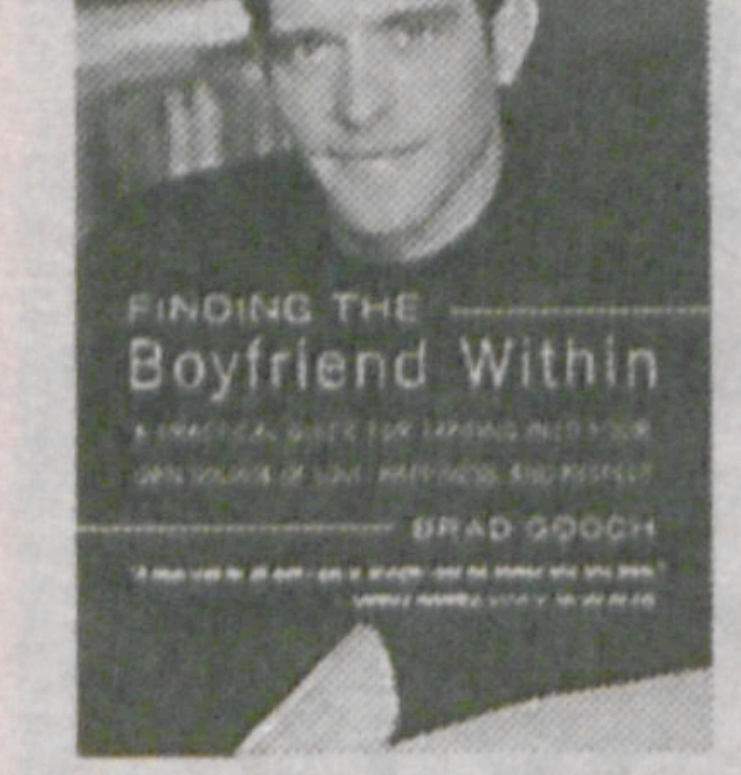
It's point/counterpoint for the lesbian set! Lipstick is the femmey-femme of the pair, while Dipstick is the eternal tomboy. Together, they are here to help whip the most precious lesbian commodity—relationships—into shape. From finding a date to staying together, they help readers navigate the wild world of discovery that pulls up shortly after the U-haul drives away—how to deal with exes, emotional baggage, and sexual dilemmas. Along with pointers about what not to wear, the authors provide a list of the ten signs it's not going to work out.

Lipstick & Dipstick's
Essential Guide to Lesbian Relationships
Kathy Belge

Finding the Boyfriend

by Brad Gooch

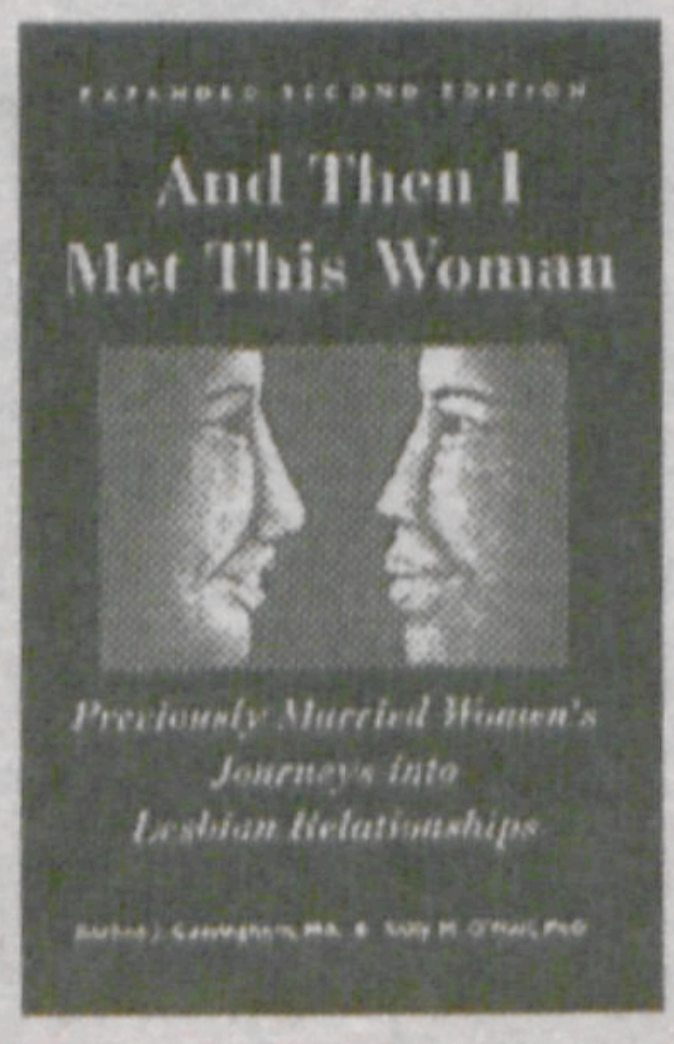
A remarkably practical and helpful guide in the quest for self-discovery for the thousands of gay men who despair of ever being in a committed relationship. Gooch is not a psychologist. His credentials are based on having hashed out his own failed relationships and those of his friends over many brunches. Influenced in addition by therapy, his experiences in ashrams, the work of such authors as Rilke, Thomas Merton, Marianne Williamson and the Sufi poet Rumi, Gooch offers reflections on his own experience and linked "awareness exercises" that are meant to strengthen the reader's relationship with himself. Filled with anecdotes, romantic advice, problem-solving suggestions, and humor - as well as wisdom from both the East and West -- Finding the Boyfriend Within offers simple self-awareness exercises to help discover the respect, happiness, and love that come first, and most enduringly, from within. *Google Books*



And Then I Met This Woman: Previously Married Women's Journeys into Lesbian Relationships

by Barbee J. Cassingham and Ph.D. Sally M. O'Neil

These stories are about the transforming commitment made by these women to own the authenticity of their feelings for another woman in order to be congruent in all areas of their lives. Their lives included the realities common to all women that are inherent in loving their children, husbands, parents and friends, as well as struggles with unfulfilling marriages, addictions, and seeking meaningful work. And, for the women in this book, their lives were further complicated by their love for a woman and the issues that are intrinsic to the coming out process.


Expanded Second Edition
And Then I Met This Woman
Previously Married Women's Journeys into Lesbian Relationships

The Multi-Orgasmic Man: Sexual Secrets Every Man Should Know

THE MULTI-ORGASMIC MAN

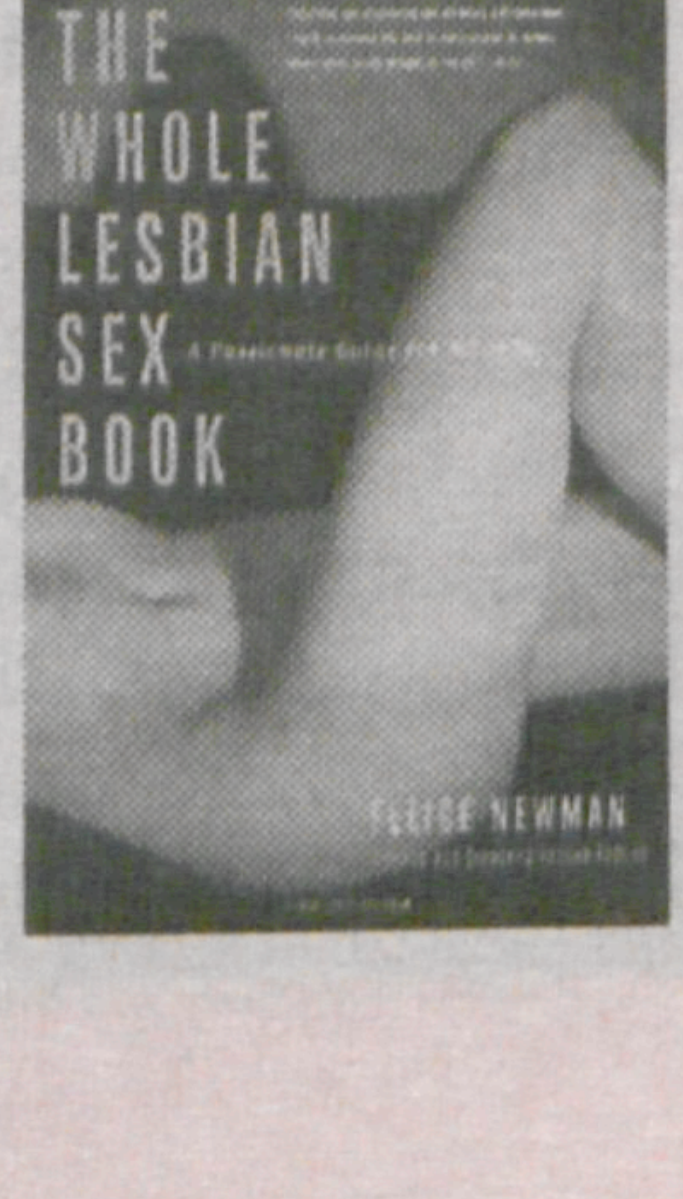
by Mantak Chia and Douglas Avara

Offering men clear and practical guidelines for researching their real but seldom realized sexual potential, The Multi-Orgasmic Man vividly explores these extraordinary facts: By learning to separate orgasm and ejaculation - two distinct physical processes - men can transform the momentary release of ejaculation into countless peaks of whole body orgasms. -Men who experience multiple orgasms -- by avoiding the fatigue and depletion that follow ejaculation -- report increased vitality and longevity.

The Whole Lesbian Sex Book: A Passionate Guide for All of Us

by Felice Newman

Newman's sex guide for lesbians is superb. Why can't more heterosexual sex manuals be this good? Newman, who, as the publisher at Cleis Press since 1980 has edited many other sex books, covers oral, manual,



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Carlisle Theatre Presents Barleyjuice, Coyote Run, then Turtle Island Quartet

Barleyjuice

Coyote Run

If you want back-to-back musical talent, then set your sights on Carlisle Theatre for March and April. Three topnotch acts hit the stage.

Fri., March 12, 7:30 p.m. the theatre offers "A Rockin' St. Paddy's Day Party with Barleyjuice & Coyote Run," a Celtic rock combination of entertainment. Barleyjuice leader Kyf used to be the voice of the 80's band the Rayvns ("Raised on the Radio"). Coyote Run's leader is now a professor of literature.

"We're a good paring of musical groups," says David Doersch, the group's leader, songwriter and business manager. "Barleyjuice is a hard driving, Irish rock group. Coyote Run is Celtic music. We really compliment each other. It's like hearing two different shows in one evening." About Barleyjuice, Irish American News said: "Toe tapping, hand clapping, whiskey drinking, crowd pleasing, high stepping music that makes the blood flow a little faster.

Doersch writes most the group's music "About 85% original, often based on the lyrical poetry of Yeats, Shakespeare, Henley, Tennyson, Blake, Kipling," he explains, making for a highly theatrical performance.

With over 10 years of national touring, Coyote Run has taught audiences one thing – they like stories. "Our performance is essentially music but we love to weave in legends and tales that lead into songs. Audiences love it!" says Doersch. The group does it all with a magical blend of majestic bagpipes, tribal drums and soaring vocals.

With four albums and a double CD collection in their sporrans to date, these six kilted yanks are currently one of the most beloved Celtic rock bands in the US. They know their stuff and have performed in Edinburgh's Millennium March for Prince Charles. Chicago's Irish American News, the Midwest Irish Focus, and radio show "Blarney on the Air" all named Bonny Prince Barley "Celtic Rock Album of the Year 2008".

Turtle Island Quartet

Fri., April 9, 8 p.m., Turtle Island Quartet appears on stage. The classical/jazz group is a two-time Grammy Winner and called the "best classical crossover".

Crossover it is. "Our next album, and we may play some tunes from it in Carlisle, is a lot of Jimmi Hendricks," says Jeremy Kittle, the youngest member of the quartet. He was one year old when the original musicians began.

"People think 'quartet' and sometimes don't know what to think," Kittle explains. "We're brainy but fun." The brainy part comes from the fact that each member has classical musical training. "An artist must first know a creative rule before knowing how to effectively break it," he says.

The quartet's names is derived from creation mythology found in Native American Folklore, the Turtle Island Quartet, since its inception in 1985, has been a singular force in the creation of bold, new trends in chamber music for strings. Winner of the 2006 and most recently, the 2008 Grammy Award for Best Classical Crossover Album, Turtle Island fuses the classical quartet esthetic with contemporary American musical styles, and by devising a performance practice that honors both, the state of the art has inevitably been redefined.

Performers' sites: www.coyoterun.com; http://www.barleyjuice.com; http://turtleislandquartet.com/

For ticket information, call the box office at (717) 258-0666.

Turtle Island Quartet

Reaching New Heights

Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra 2008-2009

Stuart Malina, Music Director

Masterworks

3/28 + 3/29 | Memories and Celebrations

- Ravel: Le Tombeau de Couperin
- Mozart: Piano Concerto No. 23 (Tanya Bannister, Piano)
- Strauss: Serenade for Winds
- Shostakovich: Symphony No. 9

4/25 + 4/26 | Tosca

Othalie Graham
Tosca

Grant Youngblood
Scarpia

Dinyar Vania
Cavaradossi

Damian Savarino
Angelotti

- Puccini: Tosca

(Concert version with supertitles. Vocalists include Othalie Graham as Tosca, Grant Youngblood as Scarpia, Dinyar Vania as Cavaradossi, Damian Savarino as Angelotti, the Susquehanna Chorale and the Messiah College Concert Choir.)

Sponsored by the Glatfelter Family Foundation.

Capital BlueCross Pops

3/14 + 3/15 | The King of Swing: A Tribute to Benny Goodman

The year 2009 marks the 100th anniversary of the birth of legendary American Jazz musician and clarinetist, Benny Goodman. Jump, jive and wail to hot jazz tunes of the Swing Era as we welcome clarinetist Dave Bennett. Guaranteed to have your toes tappin' and your fingers snappin'!

Sponsored by Capital BlueCross.

Special Events

4/28 | Stuart & Friends

Stuart Malina will play the piano and be joined by David DiGiacobbe, Flute; Odin Rathnam, Violin; Julius Wirth, Viola; and Fiona Thompson, Cello.

- Poulenc: Sonata for Flute & Piano
- Haydn: Trio for Flute, Cello & Piano
- Dvorak: Piano Quartet in A Major

Tickets for this special event are available by calling THE BOX at 214-ARTS (2787) or online at WhitakerCenter.org.

Sponsored by Marilynn R. Kanenson in memory of Dr. William Kanenson.

Tickets or more information?

Visit HarrisburgSymphony.org or call 717-545-5527.

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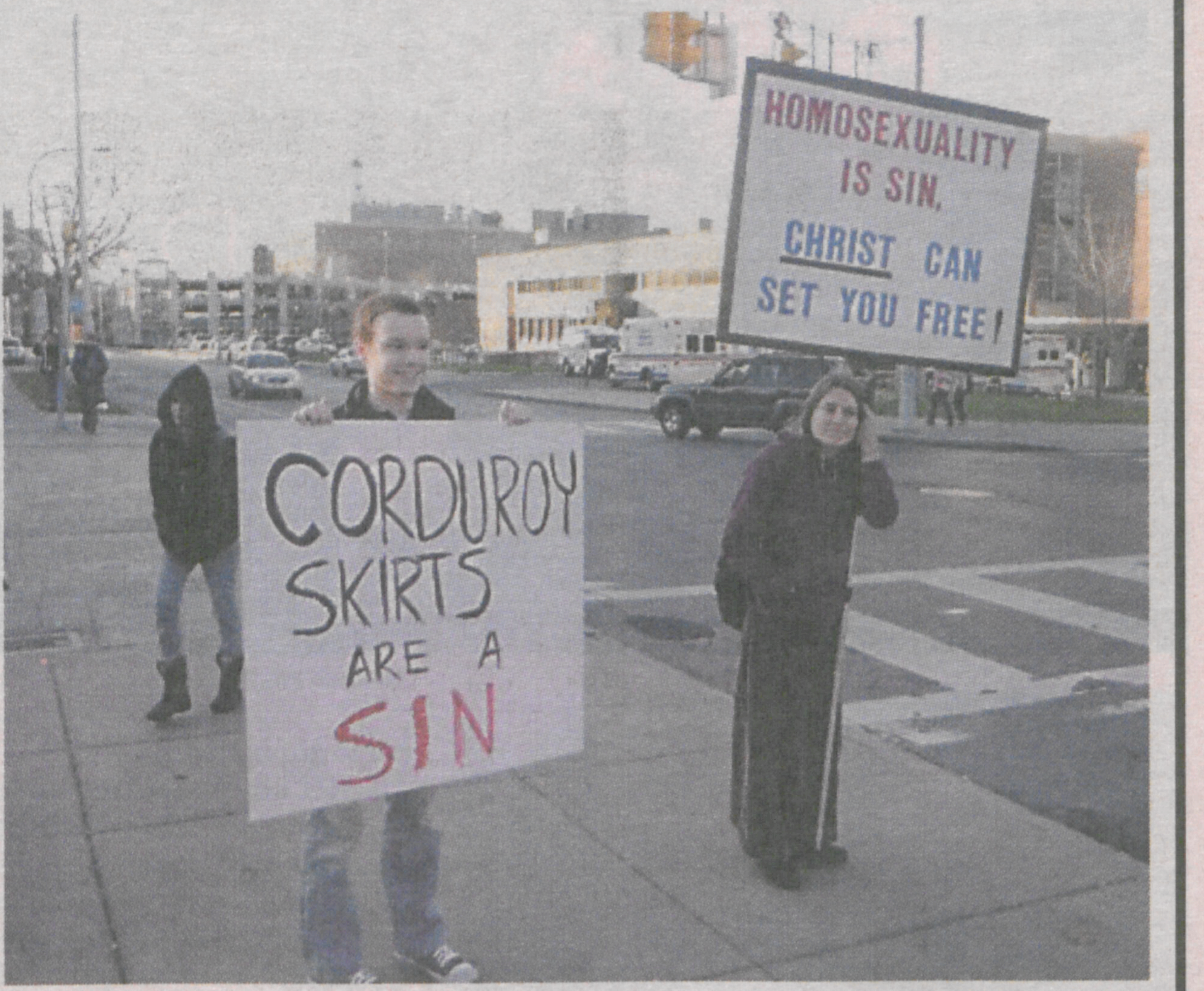
Stage on Herr, located on the corner of Herr St. & Susquehanna St., Harrisburg, is an intimate venue for Concerts, Comedy, Art, Parties and more. At a little over 3,500 square feet with soaring ceiling, the 1924 former Hebrew Gym (flooded with natural light) has an ambience that lifts the spirits of all those who visit. A perfect place for weddings, birthdays and other magical events.

Are Corduroy Skirts a Sin?


HOMOSEXUALITY IS SIN, CHRIST CAN SET YOU FREE!
CORDUROY SKIRTS ARE A SIN

Recently at Syracuse University, Michelle Deferio, right, Syracuse resident (not student), stood on a campus street corner with a sign that read, "Homosexuality is a sin, Christ can set you free." Chris Pesto, a junior drama major, decided to take action with his own sign.

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Students Protest Ugandan Anti-gay Law

*Submitted by
Michael Petrelis
Central Voice San
Francisco
Correspondent*

Stop
Ugandan
Genoci
STOP
UGANDA
ANTI HOMOSEXUAL
BILL

UGANDA
BE
KILLING
ME!

Students from southern California's private Chadwick School on the Palos Verdes Peninsula organized a protest Dec. 22, 2009 protesting Ugandan legislation that would broaden criminalization of homosexuality in the African country.

See local blog on topic by Bolton Winpenny and conservative Rev. Rick Warren's video condemnation of the bill at thecentralvoice.ning.com.

The draft measure calls for the death penalty for "serial offenders" and those who are HIV-positive, according to media reports.

The school's Gay Straight Alliance Club organized the protest, inviting adults and students at other local schools and colleges to join them in front of the office of Matthew Crouch, the honorary consul of Uganda in California.

Photos by Marisa Melideo.

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Movie Review:
The Baby Formula

By Frank Pizzoli

Alison Reid, Director

It's feisty and funny 81-minute movie, "The Baby Formula," a fictional comedy about two women in love and pregnant at the same time. Their dual pregnancies are achieved with sperm created from each other's stem cells. Their parents' response to the double news sets the stage. Written and directed by Alison Reid, the flick features co-stars Megan Fahlenbock and Angela Vint.

Central Voice spoke to Reid about her first feature film.

"My film is definitely controversial but also lighthearted and entertaining," Reid says. Blurring the lines of science and fiction created a chance for the professional stunt woman to make her first full-length feature film.

the baby formula

"The film is about the deep need of these two women to have their own baby, a biological child that represents their love and commitment to each other," Reid explains. In real life, co-stars Fahlenbock and Vint both became pregnant. "We had to start filming early, even before we had a final script. Obviously I needed to get on film their changing circumstances," Reid says. They went to Toronto Pride to film a scene in which one of them "breaks water" and must depart the jolly event on a Harley motorcycle. "That's what the script called for and that's what actually happened. Being method actors they both had girls," Reid says laughing.

continued on next page >

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Harlem Renaissance Plays Role in Gay History

The Harlem Renaissance in all its rich artistic culture played a significant role in the history of the gay movement.

Stonewall Library & Archives, the largest collection of documents and artifacts chronicling lgbt cultural and social history recently debuted a new traveling exhibit focused on how the gay community influenced the Harlem Renaissance.

According to noted African-American historian Henry Louis Gates, the Harlem Renaissance was "surely as gay as it was black, not that it was exclusively either of these." With few exceptions, the writers, artists and performers of this seminal period in black history were closeted, but nonetheless imbued their work with coded references to their sexuality.

In a segregated America, they gloried not only in black artistic achievement, but also in black identity. With gay men and lesbians in legal and social limbo, the Harlem Renaissance celebrated sexuality with a level of tolerance remarkable for that era.

Organized by Stonewall Library & Archives, the exhibition spotlights gay life in Harlem during this period. The artifacts represent a survey of the artistic movement defining black culture in the 1920-30s. Profiles are presented of Harlem's leading gay, lesbian and bisexual participants

As the result of a northward migration of African-Americans and the displacement of black communities elsewhere in New York City, Harlem became the center of black cultural and intellectual life in the years after World War I.

The 1920s and 1930s are variously referred to as the New Negro Movement or the Jazz Age and, more recently, as the Harlem Renaissance. The music, literature and art produced during this period shaped black culture for generations and influenced American society at large.

If Greenwich Village was New York City's most famous gay neighborhood, Harlem was its black counterpart. Homosexual nightlife thrived in Harlem, advertised largely by word of mouth to those "in the life." The gay and lesbian scene consisted of "rent parties," "buffet flats," speakeasies, and drag balls.

Stonewall is seeking sponsors to ensure that audiences around the country are able to enjoy this exhibition. Through its collections, programs and services Stonewall Library & Archives documents, explores and honors the lgbt past while striving to inform, inspire, and engage this and the next generation of our community's leaders.

Info: Chad Thilborger, Development Manager, 954-763-8565 or chad@stonewall-library.org.

The Baby Formula cont'd

Even with all the fun coincidences, Reid views that topic with as much seriousness as she does humor.

"The Baby Formula" is fiction. Still, stem cell science continues to push boundaries.

Reid says that general audiences blur easily lines between science, science fiction, and potential science. "I can tell by the questions that people have different levels of understanding," she says. Her film won Best Documentary in a film festival "and we had to explain that it wasn't".

When she presented her film at Canada's Stem Cell Network, a forum of scientists, the reactions were varied. "Some researchers thought the film was fantastic. Others worried how it may portray scientists." Reid did consult a bio-ethicist along the way. "I find that if I add comedy to a serious topic audiences are more willing to explore issues."

See trailer on thecentralvoice.ning.com

York events

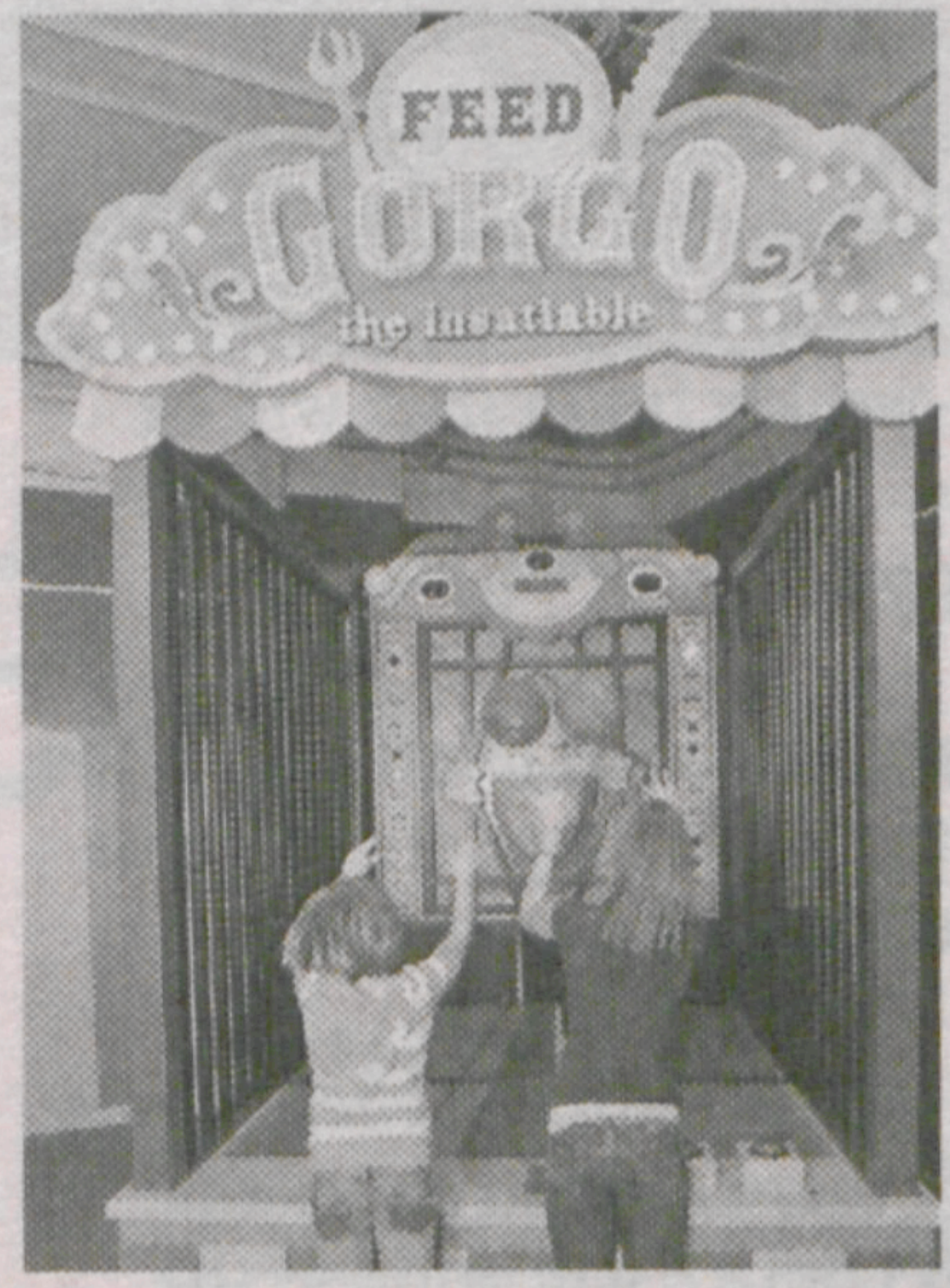
First Friday in Downtown York
March 3, 4-9 p.m., Free
www.downtownyorkpa.com

"Fast from the Past: The Racing Motorcycles of Yesteryear"
Runs until 5/1/2010
Antique Auto Museum at Hershey
161 Museum Dr., Hershey
9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
www.aacamuseum.org
(717) 566-7100

Carnival of Health at Whitaker Center

Whitaker Center's Science Center offers "Carnival of Health" in which guests experience an adventure in health and wellness within a lively carnival-like atmosphere.

With more than 2,200 square feet of fun-filled edutainment inside the exhibit guests experience the wonders of healthy living and the human body. Visitors can whack germs instead of moles, while learning about hygiene with Icky the Clown; discover the importance of a healthy body image with the help of a fun house mirror; and challenge the body and mind with these and other exciting hands-on activities modeled after classic carnival favorites.



Other features include:

Feed Gorgo - Shoot hoops and learn about nutritious eating in this twist on the classic Pop-A-Shot® carnival game. Get healthy eating tips while feeding Gorgo a balanced diet of colored basketballs representing the food groups.

Icky the Clown - Learning about hand washing is good, clean fun with this take on the arcade favorite, Whac-A-Mole™. Wipe out Icky's germs, while he delivers messages on hygiene and watch out for a wet surprise at the end!

Conquerors of the Seven Summits - Guests can scale a 16-foot climbing wall and discover the importance of setting goals and staying active. Get inspired by the stories of men and women who have overcome challenges and climbed each of the seven continents' highest peaks.

React-O-Meter - Ready…Set...Go! Visitors can test their reaction speed in this version of Quick Draw. Compete against others and try to beat personal record time.

See Your Future - Guests can watch themselves age in the years ahead.

Mindball - Visitors can focus their brain waves to move a ball across the table.

All American Calorie Race - In this patriotic-themed cycling competition, the race is on to balance the caloric intake from the foods with the calories burned during physical activities.

Memory Scramble - Up to four guests can test their memories by mimicking a sequence of synchronized lights and sound effects in this version of the iconic '80s game Simon™.

BODY IMAGE
MIRROR

Body Image Mirror - The carnival fun house mirror focuses on the importance of a healthy body image.

Fitness Drum - A bass drum beats in synch with guests' heart rate.

Info: www.whitakercenter.org; 717/214-ARTS.

LGBT community center coalition

Programs Galore at LGBT Community Center

By Sean Maloney

Contact information for these programs is below.

Writing the Memoir: From Truth to Art

This writer's workshop led by Michelle Simmons will take lessons from the book Writing the Memoir: From Truth to Art with each participant learning how to craft their stories into art the world can share. Whether you are interested in writing your own memoir, or just want to improve upon your own personal art this writing workshop is the place for you. The course costs $60 (not including the book) and space is limited.

Bingo

The fabulous Bingo is back and better than ever! This bi-weekly fundraiser will be held at Club XS and is sure to be the highlight of your weekend. With crazy antics, entertaining hosts, and cash prizes, everyone is sure to go home happy.

SAGE

If you are an older member of the lgbt community and have yet to feel like a part of the local movement, this is your opportunity to find your place. With a wide range of programs aimed at the aging lgbt community in Central PA all of your needs are sure to be met.

Health & Wellness Council

The needs of the lgbt community stretch far beyond the typical dating scenes. While many lgbt identified individuals are living an out and active life there are still issues that impact their lives that go unrecognized in the community. This council will address the needs of the lgbt community that aren't regularly talked about. They will examine creating support groups, mental health clinics, HIV and other STI testing, healthy living programs and much more. If you have expertise that would benefit such a council or just want to be a part of creating positive social change, consider getting involved.

Joint Lancaster/York Book Club

The Harrisburg book club has been flourishing for several months now, and the community is asking for more. The LGBT Community Center is pleased to announce a new joint book club between Lancaster and York. Meetings will be held at the Trinity Reformed United Church of Christ on the 3rd Sunday of each month from 5-7 p.m.

Contact: Sean Maloney, 717-920-9534 or smaloney@centralpalgbtcenter.org.

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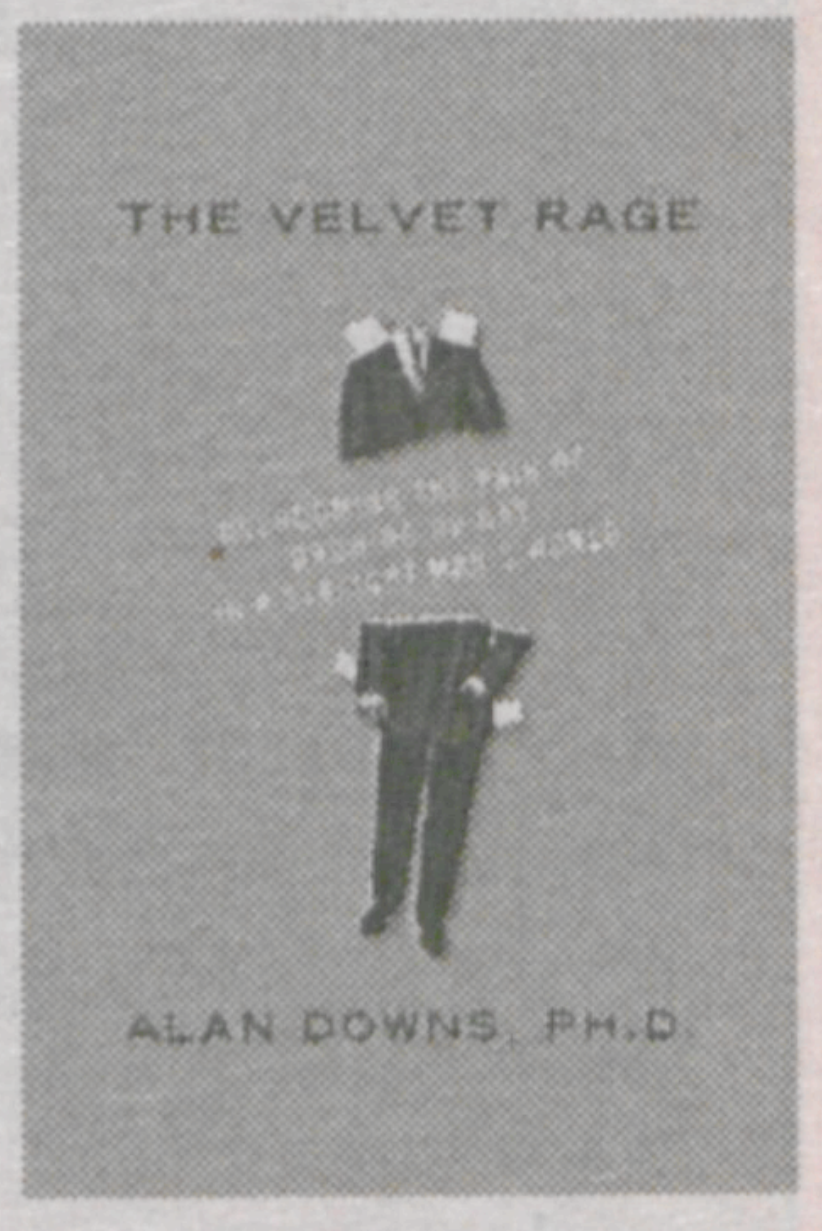
Easter:	**6 am**	**Sunrise Service, Mountville**
	10 am -	**Worship in Mountville with dinner following service**
	4 pm -	**Worship in York**
	6:30 pm -	**Worship in Reading**

For locations and directions
Web site: www.visionofhopemcc.org
or call 717.285.9070

Book Review cont'd

anal, and insertive-vaginal techniques with loving care. She includes a whole chapter on breast play, addresses safety repeatedly and thoroughly, and discusses transgender and bisexual orientations, SM, group sex, masturbation, and sex toys--all while acknowledging that some women prefer monogamy, some polygamy. Her bibliography and resource list are simply outstanding. Newman's work updates and embodies the best of the half -dozen other lesbian sex manuals in print) all acknowledged in her bibliography). Even though this book is aimed at lesbians, it's extremely suitable for heterosexual women (to enhance their own eroticism) and men (to tell them what turns women on). - Martha Cornog, Philadelphia, Publisher Weekly Review



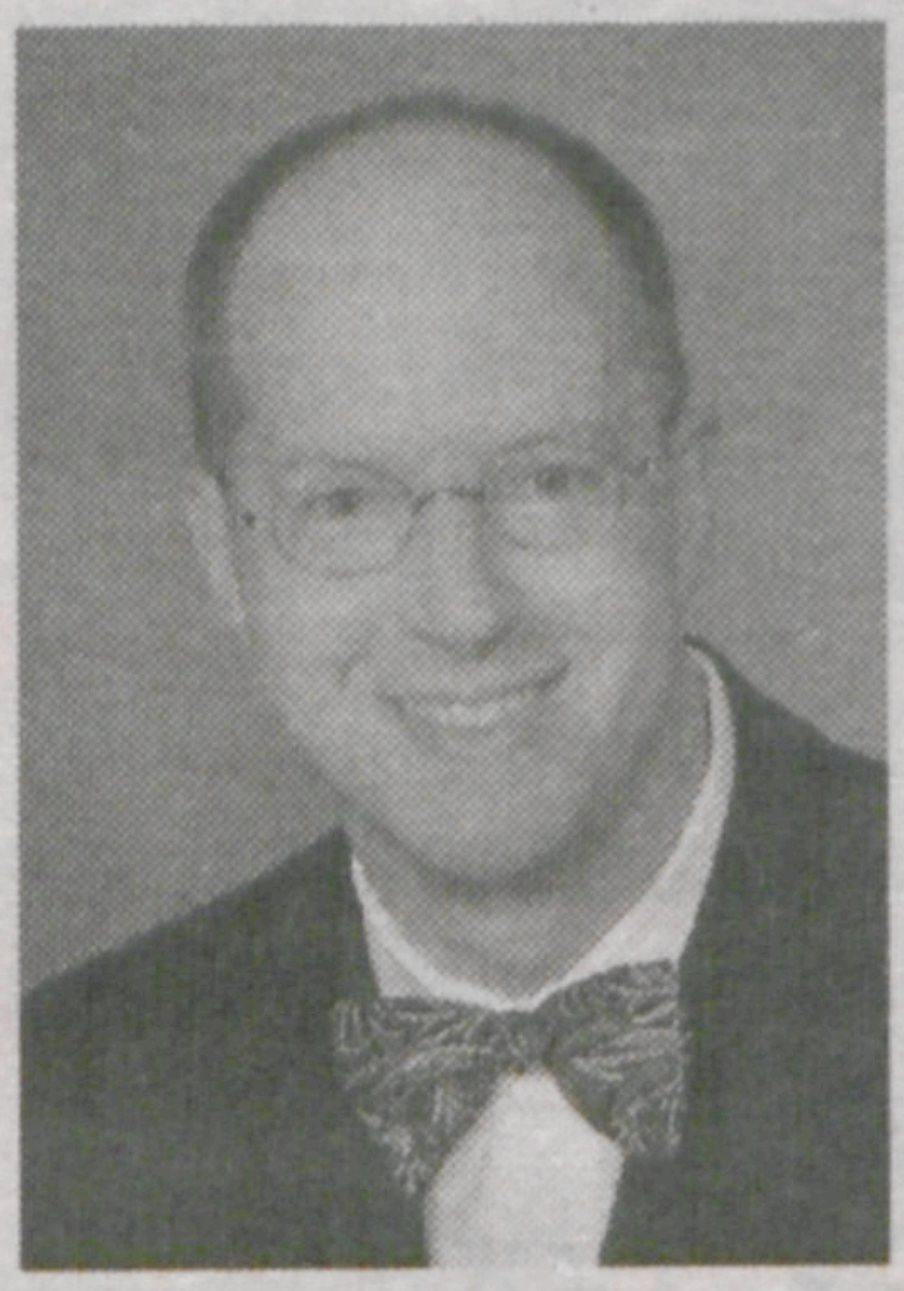
The Velvet Rage

by Alan Downs

With a title that plays on Janet Jackson's epochal 1997 LP The Velvet Rope, and its anatomy of unmet desire, therapist Downs's book describes the paradigmatic ways in which early childhood molds the future lives of gay men: scorned on the playground, disrespected by Dad, loved only by Mom until their first sex with men. Through this mechanism of rejection, gay men feel unlovable, correspondingly angry and, he says, driven to heights of creativity and "fabulousness"-in addition to shopping addiction and obsessions with fat, muscle and penis size-in a bid to distract themselves from their inner shame. For Downs, the only thing that will bring an end to this spiral of torment is, finally, "validation," which produces "authenticity." Downs is an engaging writer, while his patients, quoted in sidebars, often make witty quips that rival Quentin Crisp for dry, bitter sarcasm. While many gay readers will fail to recognize themselves here, others will find Downs's logic warming and even generous. - Susan Schulman in Publisher Weekly Review

Info: Stop by your Dauphin County Library System library or visit www.DCLS.org for access to the best in LGBT titles.

legal column



Planning for Old Age – Insurance?

By Leo L. Dunn

What is the best way to plan for your retirement and old age? What kinds and how much insurance should you buy? This is generally a question for a financial planner – which I am not, but I get asked it so many times I decided to write my thoughts.

No insurance is an investment (I can hear the insurance salespeople condemning me already). Insurance is what you buy to guard against certain negative events.

There is no one-size-fits all answer. It really depends on your individual needs, wants, abilities, and risk comfort level. Your income, investments, pension, and insurances figure into the picture. As does any expected inheritance. Generally, we need to plan for various stages of growing old: retirement, infirmity, incapacity, and death.

Usually first is no longer working – retirement. When will you be able to do this? This depends on your expectations. If you are ready to live solely off social security checks and you've reached your "magic" age, then this is when you might retire. Or perhaps you have higher expectations and a pension plus savings. You may be able to retire sooner. I know of no retirement insurance. Deciding on retirement is a personal balance of income with expectations. In a sense, you get to make this call.

Infirmity, on the other hand, generally comes calling without invitation. You do not have a choice. It just happens. If this happens before you are ready to retire its good if you have disability insurance. So perhaps you should plan on infirmity by buying a policy. If infirmity happens after retirement, you can plan for it by having long-term care insurance (this can work for certain conditions before retirement, but usually is purchased for after retirement care). Long-term care insurance also covers incapacity. From my perspective it's generally a good idea.

Death (life) insurance. This is the only stage of growing old everyone is guaranteed whether it happens at 55 or 105. You are not buying life insurance for yourself. You are buying it to protect your loved ones for financial loss. Same-sex couples can also use life insurance to cover the cost of estate tax. If you owe money on your house or are the sole income, you need it. Term insurance is always the best buy in my opinion.

I recommend that besides basic health insurance (hopefully employer provided), that clients consider disability insurance until retirement, long-term care insurance until death, and enough life insurance to cover all debts, funeral expense, and estate tax. If one partner has substantially less or no income, then life insurance needs for the other partner are increased. Of course, you also should have health care directives, powers of attorney, and a will. These are basics. As income increases, so does the complexity of the decisions you need to make.

Leo Dunn is an attorney and counselor-at-law practicing in Harrisburg with a focus on the estate planning needs of the GLBT community. He may be reached at leo@leodunnlaw.com.

Legalize QUEER
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March for Equality photo by Wade Keller

David Mixner Talks contd.

The fastest growing political label is "progressive" of some sort, defined as socially liberal and fiscally responsible.

"Gay activists are moving in the same direction," Mixner points out. He forecasts the movement will see the formation of new national and regional lgbt organizations with strong local ties. That's in contrast to, for example, Human Rights Campaign which historically has had no local-level councils, only local fundraising with no accountability regarding the shaping of issues.

"We're moving from a national political party based model to a community-based civil rights posture," Mixner explains. "Some new organizations will succeed, some will fail. It's not up to anyone to 'anoint' winners. That will happen locally." He likens the potentially new organizations to ACT UP, to older forms of activism that planned targeted actions. "We'll be making some new noise in the old ways."

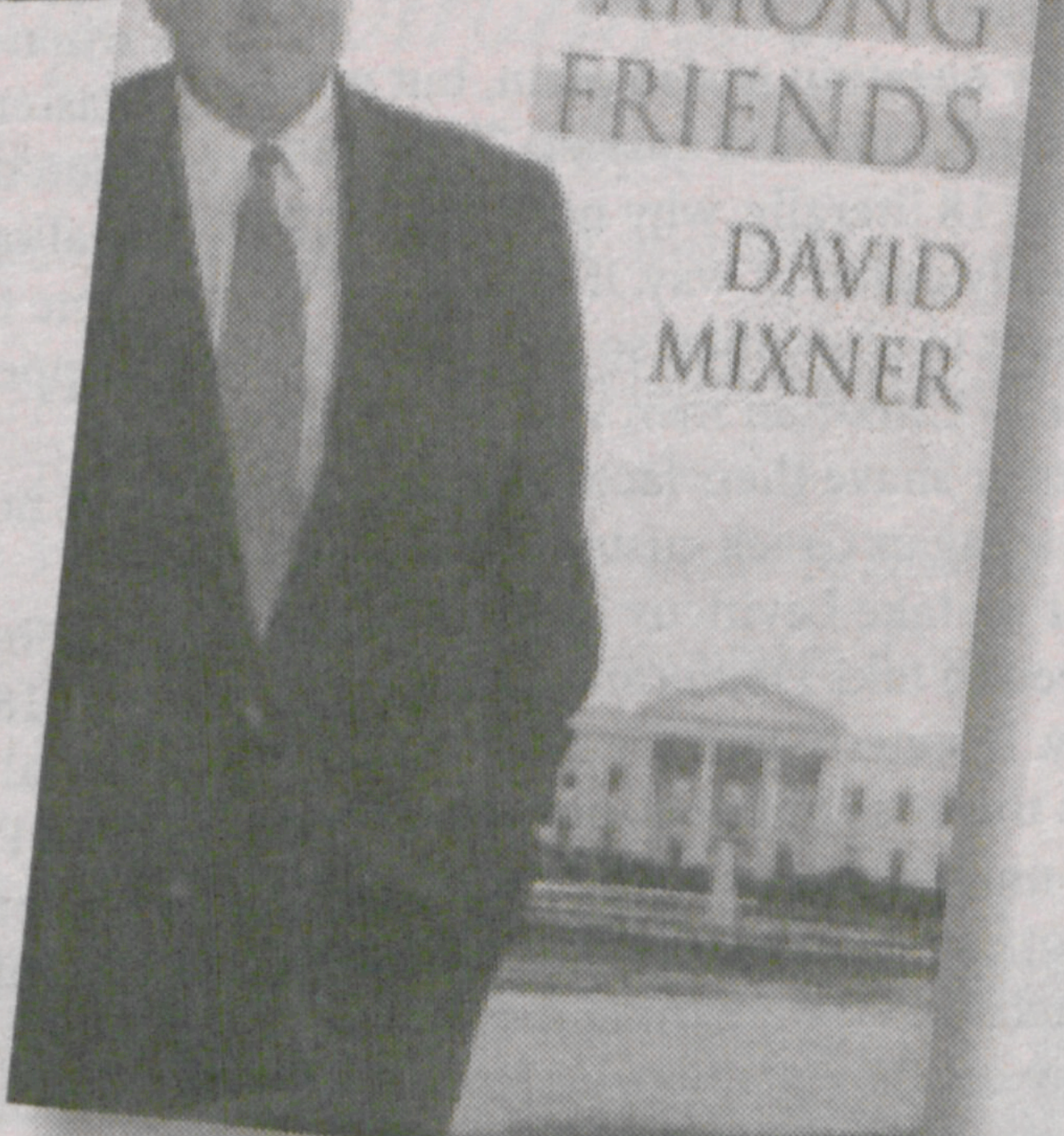
The two-party system isn't dead, just being challenged like never before.

Mixner and others recently gained national attention as leaders of a growing "boycott" movement against the Democratic Party. "Many of us in the progressive movement just want to throw up," Steven Goldstein of Garden State Equality told Newark's Star-Ledger in an Advocate interview. "Democrats put out one hand to ask for money, and with the other they stab you in the back." Estimates are that as much as one-fifth of Democratic National Committee money is gay.

Mixner describes the movement's historical alignment with the Democratic Party as "I'm not beating you as hard as the other person. That strategy, and so many dollars later, hasn't worked. We need action the federal marriage law DOMA (Defense of Marriage Act) and the military's DADT (Don't Ask, Don't Tell). Some activists are morphing the military phrase into "Don't Ask, Don't Give".

Acknowledging the rift, gay DNC treasurer Andrew Tobias emailed to constituents what he called a "nicely growing list" of pro-gay initiatives sponsored by the Obama administration. The communication listed the White House decision to support a United Nations declaration condemning the criminalization of homosexuality, the president's Gay Pride Month proclamation, and appointment of an openly gay ambassador to New Zealand.

"Symbolic," says Mixner about DNC's reaction to growing unrest among its lgbt donor and volunteer base. Even with his divergent stance, Mixner does not dismiss the historical work of his colleagues. "There's no one way to accomplish this. But we do need some new ways mixed in with the old. The time has come for our freedom. We are not a burden. Our civil rights are a moral imperative. We need elected officials to make our rights a political imperative," Mixner concludes.



About David Mixner's Career:

Author, political strategist, civil rights activist and public affairs advisor David Mixner blogs on his passions: progressive politics, foreign policy, LGBT rights and wildlife advocacy.

He was once named by Newsweek as the most powerful gay man in America. He lives in Turkey Hollow, his mountain top home in upstate New York. He keeps digs in Hell's Kitchen.

David wrote the critically acclaimed memoir Stranger among Friends and co-wrote Brave Journeys with Dennis Bailey, which topped the Los Angeles Times bestseller list. His screenplay with Richard Burns, Dunes of Overveen, won the Outfest MTV Award for Best New Screenplay. In addition, David and Dennis Bailey co-wrote the screenplay Fire in the Soul, which is in pre-production, and a play, the historical drama Jacob's Ladder.

Additionally, David has written for TIME, Los Angeles Times, The Washington Post, The Advocate and other publications. He was an Executive Producer of the award-winning documentary House on Fire, which highlighted the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the African American community.

Mixner has served as national chairperson for Representative Richard Gephardt's presidential campaign. In all, his other campaigns include Clinton for President, Hart for President, McGovern for President, Bradley for Mayor, and Brown for Governor and Senate.

City Challenges contd. from pg 1

"This is not an urban attack on the suburbs," he clarifies, adding "our cities are at the center of our region."

Sturla cites the fact that about one-third of the real estate in Lancaster, York, and Harrisburg cities is tax-exempt, a claim often made only about Harrisburg. "Yet these same nonprofit organizations execute missions that often benefit the entire county at the expense of the city."

Homeless shelters is another example Sturla uses. "Although homeless shelters tend to concentrate in our cities, the people who need them are from all over the county. This is a shared responsibility, not one handed off to cities alone," he stresses.

"We need to have a better awareness of each other and how we can move forward together, DePasquale says.

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The Bible condemns homosexuals…*or does it?*

> "You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is an abomination."
>
> *Leviticus 18:22*

Let's have an honest-to-God talk about the sin of sodomy. Let us do so by looking at the Word of God in scripture to give us inspiration, wisdom, and understanding.

One of the first texts we encounter is Leviticus 18:22 "You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is an abomination." The meaning is plain; it needs no explanation.

Leviticus 19:27 states: "You shall not round off the hair on your temples or mar the edge of your beard." The meaning of this chapter is also plain; it too, needs no explanation.

My question is also plain, but needs both explanation and answer: "If we take Leviticus 18 literally, why not 19?" To put it a slightly different way, if chapter 18 is important to obey, then so is the very next chapter — Christian men should not get haircuts or shave their faces, which, by the way, is a pagan Greek custom.

If we take Leviticus 18 literally, we also need to take Deuteronomy 14:8-9 literally. It states: "And the swine, because it parts the hoof but does not chew the cud, is unclean for you. Their flesh you shall not eat, and their carcasses you shall not touch. Of all that are in the waters you may eat these: Whatever has fins and scales you may eat. And whatever does no have fins and scales you shall not eat; it is unclean for you."

A bit later on verse 21b of the same chapter, the Bible states, "You shall not boil a kid in its mother's milk."

And so, my questions: Why do Christians violate God's holy law every time they eat bacon for breakfast, pulled pork sandwiches for lunch, and ribs for supper? Why do Christians violate God's holy ordinances every New Year's Day when they eat pork and sauerkraut, every Easter Sunday when they sit down to a ham dinner, every time they have eat a scallop, a crab cake, or a shrimp? Every time they chow down a cheeseburger or a pepperoni pizza?

Why is it ok to disobey Leviticus 19, but not 18?

There is a second problem with a literal interpretation of Leviticus 18. Leviticus 18 speaks only to men, not women. A literal interpretation is clear - Clay Aiken, Neil Patrick Harris, Elton John, David Ogden Stiers, and George Takai are an abomination. But Meredith Baxter, Ellen DeGeneres, Portia deRossi, Kelly Gillis, Cynthia Nixon, Rosie O'Donnell are A-OK according to God's word.

One reply to my question might be to state that Leviticus 18 isn't the only biblical passage that speaks against male homosexuality. There is also the story of Sodom and Gomorrah found in Genesis 19. However, before we get too cozy with this passage as our proof text, take a look at 19:5-8 "… and they called to Lot, "Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us that we may know them." Lot went out of the door to the men, shut the door after him, and said, 'I beg you, my brothers, do not act so wickedly. Behold, I have two daughters who have not known man. Let me bring them out to you, and do to them as you please; only do nothing to these men, for they have come under the shelter of my roof."

No American preacher or religious group takes Genesis 19:8 literally. From the Mormons, to "Hail, Mary," to Pat Robertson, white with foam, not one American preacher or religious advocates the remedy for homosexuality is to offer our virgin daughters to be raped by strangers. Preachers either gloss over the passage, or ignore it all together. No one thinks 19:8 is literally God's will, just as no TV evangelist literally believes his TV signals are bouncing off the firmament described in Genesis 1:6-8 rather than some satellite in space. And yet religious groups use 19:5 to insist that God rained down fire and brimstone on a community because of some men preferred the company of other men rather than "having their way" with the hosts' virgin daughters.

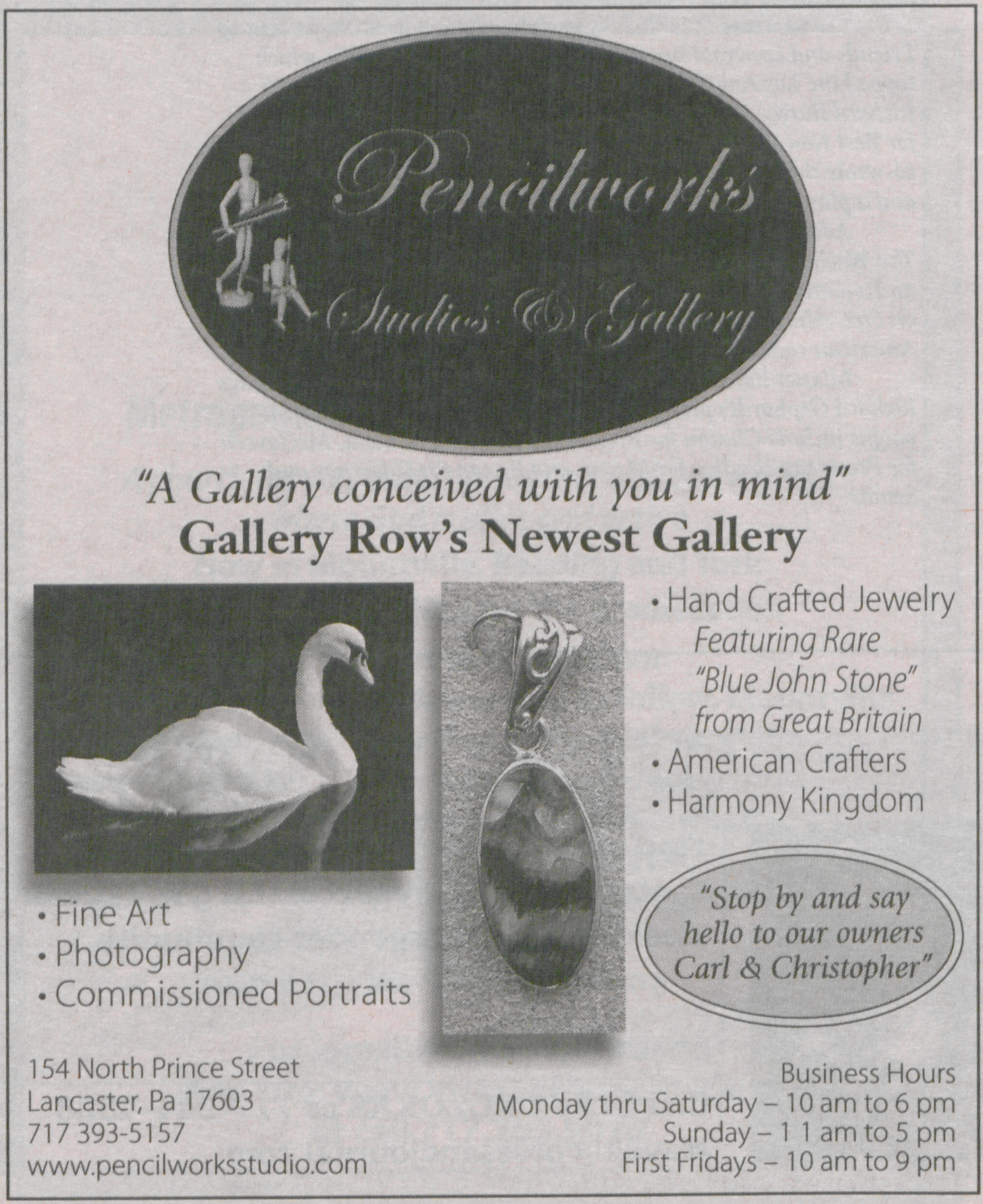
Again, my question - why do they insist on a literal interpretation of 19:5 but not 19:8? And just to let you know that this is not an aberrant text or mistranslated text, a very similar story appears in Judges 19. Read it for yourself!

If the children of Abraham, Jews, Christians, and Muslims, are to take any meaning from the story of Sodom and Gomorrah it would be better if we were to look at Genesis 18. This chapter, which is seldom preached but should be, speaks powerfully about grace. In Genesis 18, Father Abraham stands in God's way in order to prevent Sodom and Gomorrah from being punished. Even more astonishing is Abraham's great show of tolerance and mercy as he bargains with God. More on that in a future column.

At the beginning of this article I asserted that sodomy is a sin. So then, what is the sin of sodomy? Good question, because the sin of sodomy is real and must be condemned. The sin of sodomy is found in Ezekiel 16:49: "Behold, this was the guilt of Sodom: she and her daughters had pride, surfeit of food, and prosperous ease, but they did not aid the poor and the needy." Even though this passage is seldom preached, its meaning is clear, plain, and literal — Godly people who have money and prosperity, but do not aid for the poor and the needy are sodomites.

The Bible, God's word, is clear, plain, and literal — we commit sodomy when we turn our backs on the destitute, the stranger and sojourner, the illegal alien, the hungry, the destitute, the desperate. That's the sin of sodomy and it needs to be preached and heard and understood everywhere the children of Abraham call on the name of God.

Timothy DeWald is an assistant professor of mathematical sciences at Lebanon Valley College. He is also an ordained pastor.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Vision of Hope Church Celebrates 30 Years

Vision of Hope Metropolitan Community Church is celebrating 30 years of service in the lgbt community of Lancaster County.

The congregation which owns a facility on Main Street in Mountville is celebrating by expanding their outreach into worship and activities at two other venues in Reading at the Friends Meeting House on N. 6th Street on Sundays at 6:30 p.m., and in York at Grace United Church of Christ at 225 N. Hartley Street on Sundays at 4 p.m. The congregation has been hosting "Bible Study Plus" sessions with worship and study twice monthly at both locations since September of 2009.

In addition to the new outreaches, the congregation will be "Celebrating Ministry: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow" with special guest speakers each month including the former pastors of the congregation and others who have played foundational roles in the life of the congregation over the years.

Lead Pastor Reverend Deb Coggin said "There was a time when the idea of a Christian church with a primary outreach to the queer community was unthinkable. Today more congregations are reaching out, but we know there remains a need for our ministry and call."

Vision of Hope Metropolitan Community Church is a Jesus focus, Spirit filled church where God is alive and active. The church is a member congregation in the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (MCC). Founded in 1968 by a gay, Pentecostal minister, MCC has been at the forefront of much of the debate of homosexuality and spirituality on issues including the Bible and homosexuality, full inclusion and ordination of all who are called to ministry, and gay marriage. There are currently over 250 worshipping bodies in MCC in 26 countries.

Info: www.visionofhopemcc.org.

Pride Organizations Meet

With planning virtually nonstop from one year to the next, both the region's organizations are busy at work on this year's events. Both volunteer organizations began their 2010 planning cycle with an open invitation to the community, organizations, leaders, and potential volunteers. "This is great," said Lancaster Pride chair leader Mark Stoner looking out to room of about 25 people. "Pride is an event put on for the entire lgbt community, our allies and friends," said Central PA Pride Festival president Jeff Clouser to the 32 people assembled.

Lancaster Pride is June 19, Buchanan Park, Lancaster. Central PA Pride Festival is July 23, 24, 25.

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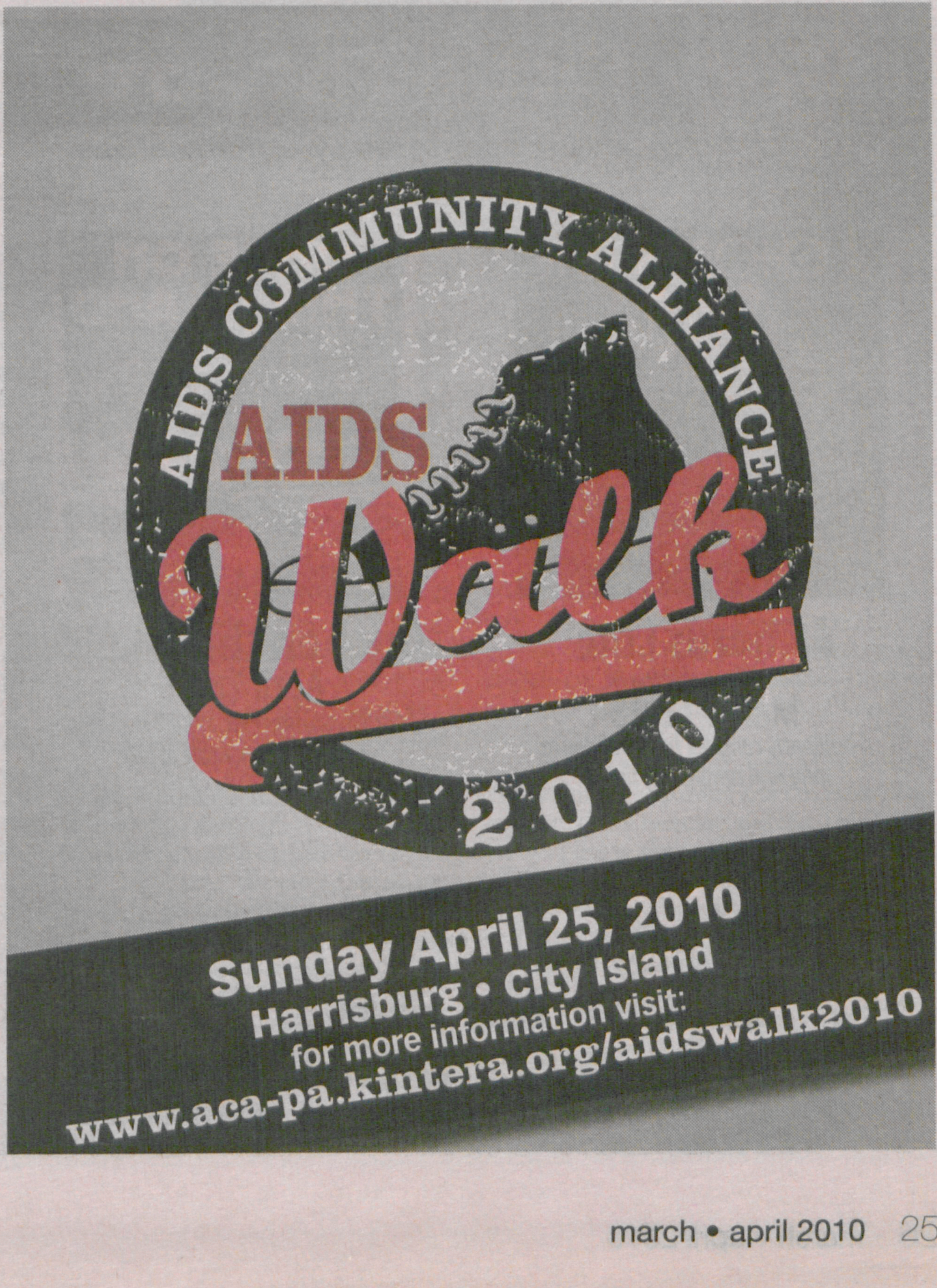

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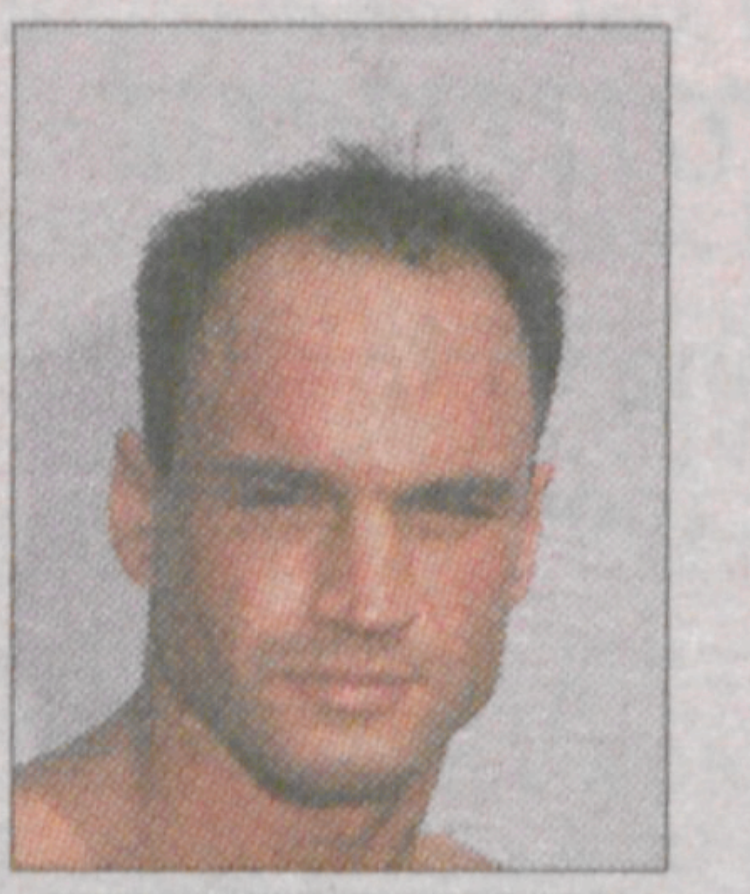

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Ned Smith Center Exhibits National Geographic Photographer

Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art is proud to host "Fragile Nature," an exhibit of photography by renowned National Geographic photographer Joel Sartore. The exhibit in the center's Olewine Gallery through June 13.

The Center will also host Sartore for a series of events, gallery tours and workshops from April 30-May 1, 2010.

With over a dozen years of working with National Geographic, Sartore has captured images of animals and ecosystems from around the world. Ranging from the backyards of suburban Nebraska to far-flung locales like the Madidi National Park in Bolivia, Sartore's skillful camera work transports us to worlds we might never see.

Sartore's goal for his photography is to foster understanding and appreciation of the natural world because, in his words, "our very survival depends on it. We must have healthy, vibrant ecosystems to keep our air and water clean."

The exhibit, which is a compilation of some of Sartore's most spectacular work to date – from a brown bear snagging a salmon as it leaps over a waterfall in Alaska to a sprawling housing development in California to macaws in flight in Bolivia – portrays a that message in vivid, awe-inspiring detail.

"This exhibit ties directly to the center's conservation mission," says Ned Smith Center Executive Director Jerry Regan. "We are pleased to have a photographer of Mr. Sartore's caliber exhibit his work in our gallery."

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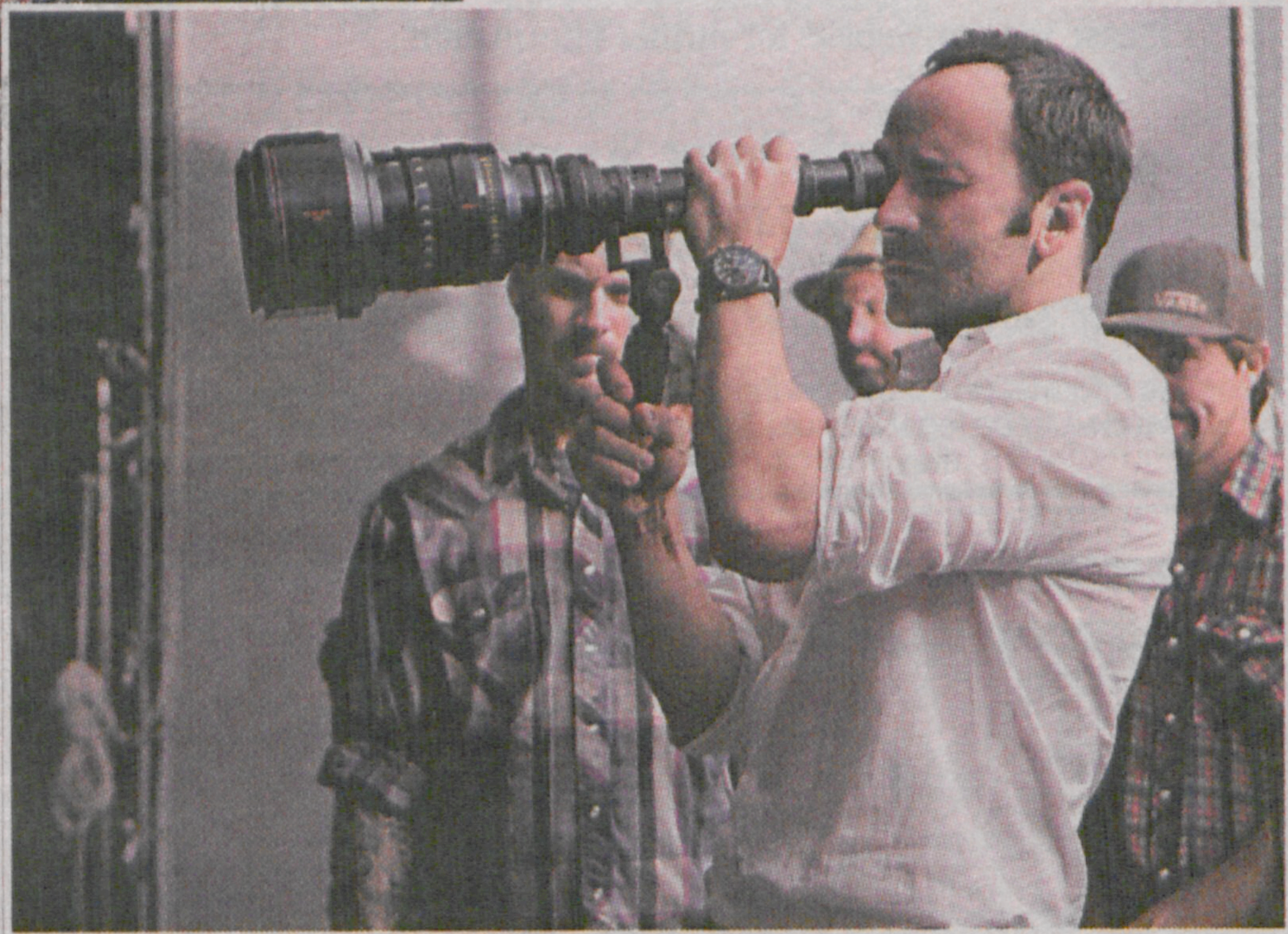
Tom Ford: The Other "Man"

The fashionista-turned-filmmaker dishes on his directorial debut, the loss he endured to make it and why it's more than a gay movie

By Chris Azzopardi

Scenes from "The Single Man"



Filmmaker Tom Ford

All you know about Tom Ford isn't it. The style savvy man we're familiar with through the fashion-world lense – as Gucci's former creative director for 10 years – is more than that debonair hunk-and-a-half. Much of Ford's unknown facets are in his directorial debut, "A Single Man" – award bait starring Colin Firth as George, a suicidal gay man suffering from his longtime partner's death.

Ford spoke with us about reactions to his first film, what the movie says about him personally and why – as a gay man – he'd have no problem taking a whiff of a woman.

The film has picked up numerous award nods and lots of Oscar momentum. You're floating on Cloud 9 now, aren't you?

I'm on Cloud 9 because everyone has responded really almost unanimously positively. That's a great feeling, when you know that you've created something that speaks to a lot of people.

Is this attention giving you a push to pursue film further?

Well, I'm so stubborn that I was going to do more no matter what *(laughs)*. I never intended to make just one film; I always intended that this one would be my first. So even had I really failed, I would be doing it again. I can't wait to get started on the next one.

Despite the universal, humanistic quality of the film, it still felt pretty gay, though you don't like to call it that, right?

I hate categorizing things. I wanted to depict a gay relationship in a very matter-of-fact way, and that was one of the things that always drew me to Christopher Isherwood's writing, because when he wrote this book in 1964, it was a landmark piece of gay literature. It was so matter-of-fact. There was no issue.

I've lived with the same man for 23 years, and much of the film is taken from my own life. I will have someone still say to me "your lifestyle." And I say, "My lifestyle? What is that?" I live with somebody I love. We make dinner at home together. We lie around and read books and watch television and walk our dogs and go on vacation and argue occasionally – that's a lifestyle? That's what I meant. That's what I wanted to depict – just a very straightforward love story.

While making the film, did you think about how you would react if you were in George's shoes?

I was in George's shoes, but it wasn't over the loss of a lover. It was really the loss of a career, and I had made a major shift and left something that I had been doing for 15 years. All of a sudden, I had no identity and I had no voice in contemporary culture, and it fell at a time when I had what is really a very classic midlife crisis.

I was lucky enough to have everything early in life, including a great relationship and everything the material world can offer – a successful career, lots of money, a great life, friends – and yet I couldn't find a certain kind of happiness. When I left Gucci, it just really pushed me into a kind of tailspin because I had no way to express myself, and I was really grieving that. That was my relationship to the book.

So reading Christopher's book later on in life influenced you differently than when you first read it?

Oh yeah. Reading it when I was young, I was living in L.A. and I was single and I fell in love with George. I loved him as a character, and it was so perfectly written I really imagined I might just run into him somewhere. And I did run into him in his real-life form as Christopher Isherwood.

When I reread the book three-and-a-half years ago, I was relating to what George was going through and to his somewhat suicidal thoughts, because he couldn't figure out why he's living, what's the point to life, what is this all about, why do we struggle every day. I could certainly relate to a man who came to a point where he could not see his future and he questioned the meaning of life.

Did you have the idea of turning it into a film the first time you read it?

Oh no. Not at all. At that time I was an actor and I worked quite a lot in television commercials, but that was about all I did. Most of the time I went to night clubs and did all the things that people when they're 20 years old usually do (laughs). So, no, I wasn't thinking at all about making film. It was really maybe about 12 years ago that I started to really become serious about making a film, and then when I left Gucci almost six years ago, I opened my production company and decided this was the time to do it.

How did being a fashion maven – and having that aesthetic eye – assist in the direction of the film, especially the art direction?

I'm used to framing an image through still photography. But what helped the most was the way I'm used to working, which is with a large group of people, making very quick decisions and creating an environment where everybody feels they can give you – and wants to give you – their absolute best, and then in leading and guiding all of these people in achieving your ultimate vision or point of view. And that is exactly the same in film as it is in fashion.

And my age helped me. A lot of first-time directors are in their 20s and I'm – I hate to say it (laughs) – nearing 50. I've been around. I've got a certain amount of experience, and if someone threw a tantrum, which nobody did, I would've known how to handle it.

One of the morals of this movie is to cherish the little things in life. For you, what are those?

A lot of them are in the film. When I was writing the scene with the hustler in the parking lot, my little smooth fox terrier, which is in the movie, was curled up on my lap. One of the greatest pleasures of my entire life is my dogs, and I've always had dogs going back to when I was a little kid.

I really thought about the things in life that I'm going to miss (when I die), that I'm going to want to take with me. And they're never material things. You're not going to wish that you worked more. You're not going to die thinking about a car you had in 1970-whatever. You're going to think about the connections that you had with other people. The moment in life where you felt truly connected to someone.

A lot of people didn't foresee you taking this path and making a film. What are some of your other hidden talents? Besides making a convincing straight man on the cover of Vanity Fair.

(Laughs) I wasn't trying to be a straight man on the cover of Vanity Fair. If you're a gay man, why can't you sniff the back of a beautiful girl? I'm completely gay, but I have a lot of women friends who, sometimes, I want to touch because they're beautiful and they smell great and I love them.

I don't think most people knew that I'm extremely romantic, and I'm extremely emotional and insecure and shy. I kind of always pose in the same way. I don't let a lot of people very far into my life. I've always kind of presented a surface veneer, which works for fashion.

A lot of people maybe thought that's all there was to me. I have a very good friend that I've had for about 20 years, and he said he's always thought of me as a beautiful lacquered box from the 20s with a platinum handle, but he had no idea there was anything inside the box *(laughs)*.

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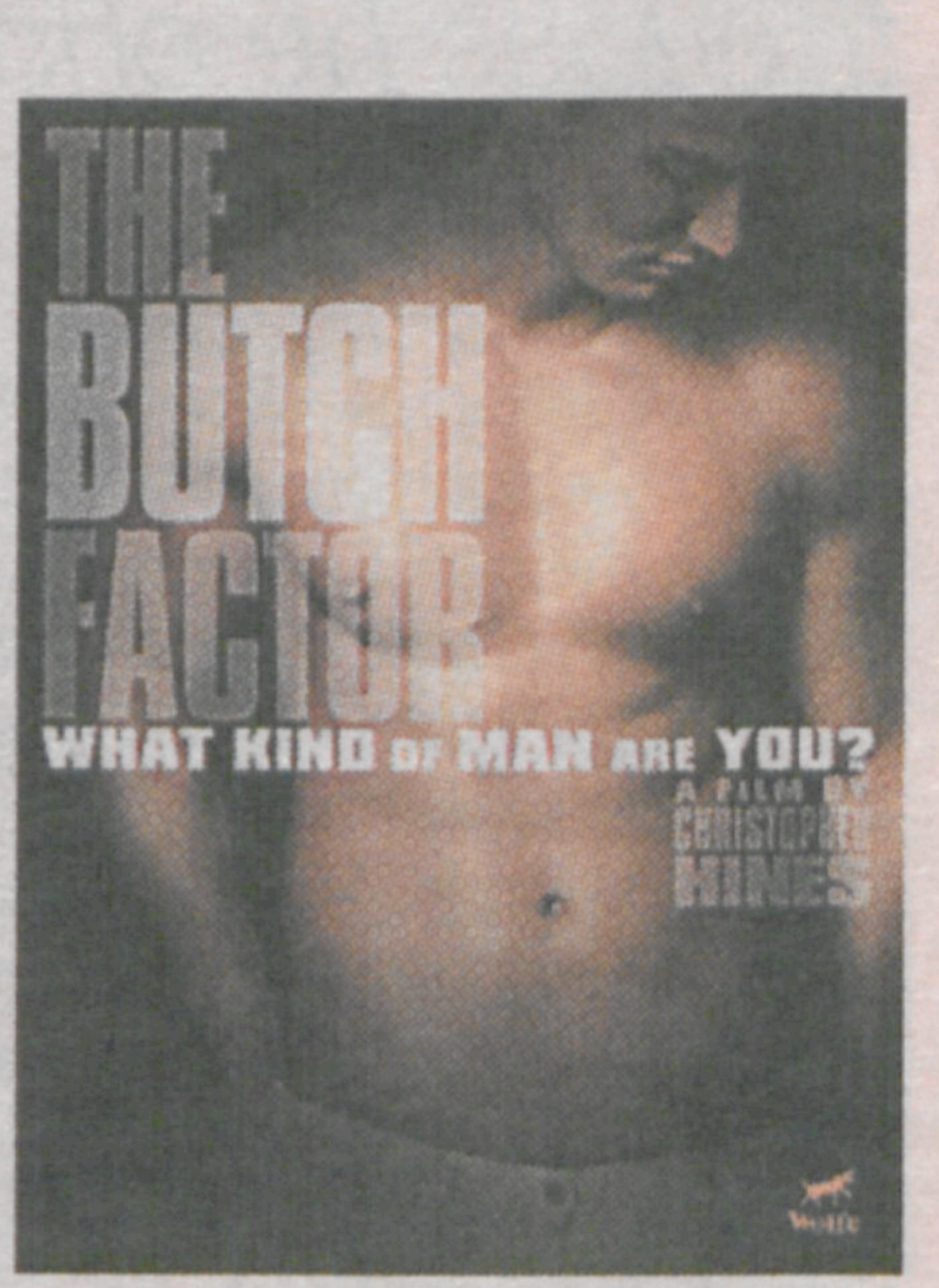
Filmmaker Talk: How Butch Are You?

By Frank Pizzoli



If you laid end to end all the things gay men say about each other they would stretch: (a) one mile, (2) 10 miles, (3) the truth.

If you add in "masculinity" the rubber band breaks. Snap! So dude, how butch are you? There's not a gay man out there who hasn't pondered the meaning of masculinity.

"The Butch Factor" covers every aspect of how gay men of all stripes view themselves and others. "I heard over and over from some groups of gay men that they weren't represented in film festivals or features," LA filmmaker Christopher Hines tells Central Voice.

The film is a set of insightful interviews mixed with entertaining eye-candy, a fast-paced testosterone tour that cruises from the Castro clone culture of the 1970s to today's Bears and gym rats. "Guys were telling me that the more traditional roles were overlooked." By that Hines means cowboys, guys who like to hunt and fish, regular guys, bears.

As the film progresses, each side of the homo coin gains new currency. Perceptions between twinks and bears refine into deeper understandings of the many forms of masculinity. "My interviews really blow the lid off old stereotypes," Hines says. His battalion of interviewees including muscle men, rodeo riders, rugby players and cops. The men speak candidly on a range of topics from homophobia to metrosexuality to embracing effeminacy as they reveal what it means to be a gay man today.

In many ways the film says "Stonewall," when in 1969 a bar full of mostly effeminate gay men, mostly drag queens, but not all, pushed back against a police raid. "Guys often ridicule femme men but they're the guys who are actually many times stronger. They can't 'hide' like 'straight-acting' gay men can or want to," Hines says.

"We're all vulnerable no matter who we are. I just wanted to make a statement about it all so were get off each others' backs already," Hines concludes.

See "The Butch Factor" trailer @ thecentralvoice.ning.com.

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Want to have the 2010 Central PA Pride Festival blast your business name before the region's largest single gathering of lgbt people, their friends and allies?

The event, July 23-25, draws about 5,000 individuals annually. This year's is the festival's 19th and the parade's 5th year.

"We have a number of ways for business to let our community know they value are dollars," says Pride president Jeff Clouser. He has been involved with the venue for the last three years and at the helm of the volunteer organization for the last two. He is assisted by an all-volunteer board of directors.

According to Harrisburg city officials the event is one of the city's larger venues.

There are two ways businesses and organizations can become a sponsor. There's the traditional sponsorship opportunity similar to past years and, new for this year, "naming rights" for a July 23 Pre-Pride Party to be held at the location that holds the naming right. There's also naming rights to the July 24 "official after-party," also to be held in the location of the rights holder.

At press time, letters were in the process of being mailed by festival organizers to potential bidders for this year's new opportunity for naming rights. Any business or organization not receiving a letter but interested in bidding on the official pre- and post parties is encouraged to contact Pride. The traditional sponsorships are listed on the organization's web site and include Red ($3,500), Orange ($2,500), Yellow ($1,500), Green ($750), Blue ($150), Purple ($50). For sponsorship information, go to http://www.prideofcentralpa.org.

Sponsorships and naming rights give wide exposure to a business.

"The 2009 festival brought people from all over the Mid-Atlantic region to Pennsylvania's capital city," Clouser says, including Dauphin County's eight surrounding counties of Perry, Cumberland, Dauphin, Lancaster, Lebanon, Berks, York, and Adams.

The event also draws people from Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, DC, Maryland, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, and northern Virginia.

"Out of town guests directly associated with the festival rented 50 hotel rooms in the greater Harrisburg area. Forty meals were purchased by the Pride leaders for entertainers and out of town guests," Clouser notes $7,850 was donated to local and regional lgbt organizations and businesses. Fifty meals were donated to the Bethesda Mission for the homeless after the 2009 festival. $2,500 has been donated the last two years to the Easch-Potter Scholarship Fund which provides scholarships for local lgbt youth who plan are seeking a college education.

In a step to insure transparency, Clouser, Anklam, and smith reported that for 2009 the event, including the parade and Pride along the river, cost $75,000. Projected cost for 2010 is $80,000 which includes Pride and parade expenses, police protection, street blocking, permits, decorations, sound systems, marching bands, awards, administrative fees, toilets, tent, stage, chair rentals, fencing, entertainment, and insurance.

Last year's parade cost $19,700 of the $75,000 total expense. This year's parade is forecast at $17,000. "The community needs to know and understand that the parade only brings in 4 percent of its expenses," Smith explained, leaving about $16,300 to be raised this year for the popular portion of the weekend-long festivities.

In related events, Philadelphia's Pride Parade and Festival last June hit a roadblock when the city requested $20,000 for its permits for police presence, a charge the city had covered in the past but declined due to the budget crisis. Organizers shortened the parade route and cut the cost to $8,900.

"Vendor fees bring in 25 percent of our revenue. Admission brings in 33 percent. That means we need to raise $42,000 in sponsorships and fund-raising in order to put on this year's events," Clouser stressed. "We're ready for business. Are you?" he asks.

Following last year's event, the organization had $12,000 left over for 2010. "Our Fall fund raisers brought in only about $1,000, bringing that the total moving forward to $13,000.

Current volunteers working to produce this year's event are Board members Tammy Cassel, Diana Kuhns, Jeffrey Clouser, Gary Fey, Donald Anklam, Dale Schauer, Mark Smith, Dame Glenda, Adam Hagerty, Justin Bacon, and Brad Martin. The executive committee is Clouser, president; Anklam, vice-president; Justin Bacon, vice-president; Cassel, communications; Kuhns, treasurer.

Committee chairs are Fey, Festival; Smith, Parade; Hagerty, Operations; Anklam, Fundraising; Martin, Media Marketing, PR, Sponsorships; Schauer, Volunteers; Glen Wagner (Dame Glenda), Entertainment; Bacon, Nominations/By-Laws.

Sub-committee chairs are Voices United, Paul Foltz; Spirits United, Marlene Kanuck.

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transgender column

Progress & Prejudice in Transgender community

By Jeanine Ruhsam
TransCentralPA

We in the transgender community felt a surge of pride Jan. 4 when Amanda Simpson, a transgender woman, was appointed by President Obama as senior technical adviser to the Commerce Department. She will work directly with the Under Secretary of Commerce on international trade and national security issues.

"A Transgender Rocket Scientist Goes to Washington" screamed the headlines. She truly is a rocket scientist, having worked in the aerospace and defense industry for 30 years, recently for Raytheon Missile Systems. She holds degrees in physics, engineering and business administration, and is a certified flight instructor and test pilot with 20 years of experience, and was 2004's YWCA "Woman On The Move"

"I'm truly honored to have received this appointment and am eager and excited about this opportunity that is before me," said Ms. Simpson. "As one of the first transgender presidential appointees to the federal government, I hope that I will soon be one of hundreds, and that this appointment opens future opportunities for many others."

What makes this event so significant is that while there are many employed and successful transgender individuals, you don't often hear their stories because they are living "stealth" (without disclosing transgender status). Living stealth used to be required of transgender people for a gender transition to be deemed successful, and continues to be a necessary practice for many of us to survive, economically and socially.

Simpson has been visible in her success, and has the confidence in herself and in the progress achieved by lgbt people to "come out" openly as a transgender woman. Acceptance of transgender people in greater society will continue to accelerate when others who are successful are open about being transgender.

Sadly, Ms. Simpson was the victim of a skit of very poor taste by David Letterman on the CBS Late Show only two days later. On that episode Letterman announced Simpson's historic appointment; when he mentioned that she was transgender the show's announcer, Alan Kalter, feigned "trans panic", yelling, "What? Amanda used to be a dude? My God!" before running out of the studio in feigned horror, implying that he had some prior relationship with Simpson but was not aware of her gender history.

"Trans panic" been used as a defense in nearly every hate crime perpetrated against transgender people that has come to trial. This "trans panic" defense was used by Allen Ray Andrade, who was convicted in 2009 of beating 19-year-old Angie Zapata to death with a fire extinguisher after learning of her gender history. According to reports, it has also been the main defense used by Juan A. Martinez for the recent killing of Jorge Steven López Mercado, 19, in Puerto Rico last November.

This show prompted a huge outcry of derision from the public. Allyson Robinson HRC's Associate Director of Diversity for Transgender Issues, stated "The decision to ignore the fact that Ms. Simpson is incredibly well-qualified for this vital national security position and focus instead on her gender identity reflects transphobia. Ms. Simpson's appointment represents meaningful progress for the lgbt community and in particular transgender Americans who have faced significant and well-documented discrimination in the workplace and their communities."

Denise LeClair, Executive Director of IFGE (International Foundation for Gender Education, of which I am proudly a member of the Board of Directors) said, "This skit is in shockingly poor taste since it (mocks) the stated defense of numerous murderers accused of killing transgender women, the so-called "trans-panic defense". The use of this defense has resulted in sentences of less than two years in some cases. In the last 10 years almost 300 transgender women have been murdered in this country. Despite the recent passage of the federal Hate Crimes Law, very few of these cases are ever solved, and even fewer result in conviction. Our society places little value on the lives of transgender people, but it is unconscionable to use the murders of our brothers and sisters as a throwaway joke."

Amanda Simpson was, I am sure, prepared for such a happening when she chose to be "out" many years ago. But what a pity that lgbt people must shoulder mockery and derision as recognition of their outstanding accomplishments, and what a shame that prominent media personalities continue to display such unjust, cruel and sick behavior.

Contact: www.transcentralpa.org

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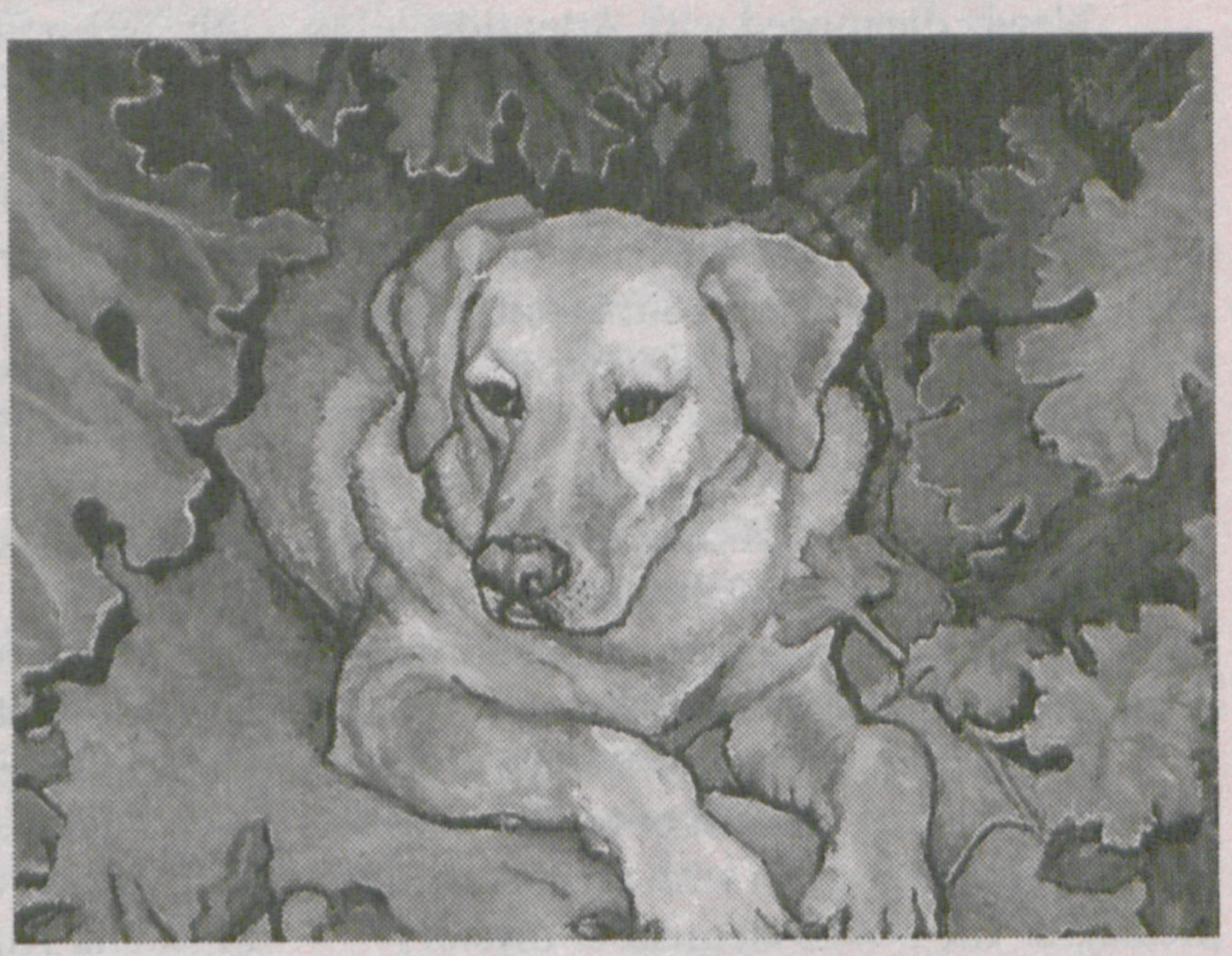
ARTS at 510 Shows Four-Legged Friends



Arts at 510 shows "Exhibit of Four-Legged Friends" until March 16. Animal lovers simply love all things animal, so in this spirit, the exhibit showcases humor and serious studies by artists who put their own spin on what makes animals so endearing to the masses.

The show features art by Terri Amig, Mary Kay Fager, Donna Anderson, Cheryl Piperberg and Richard Summons. Their work includes paintings, drawings, blessing bowls, and metal reliefs.

About the Artists

TERRI AMIG

The show features oil paintings by Terri Amig, originally from Harrisburg, and now residing on a farm in Cape May County, NJ. Through studies at Fine Art at the California Institute of the Arts in Los Angeles, and at Corcoran College of Art & Design in D.C., she found intense fascination with the importance of the connection between water, the earth and the true beauty of animals and bovines. With the intensity of Renaissance portraiture, the animals look directly at you with warmth. Three decades of exhibitions throughout NJ and PA have provided her with a healthy approach to sharing a depth of life and perception and how all matters are connected. Her attention to detail, show how animals share the human instinct.

MARY KAY FAGER

Well-known, collected and respected far beyond Camp Hill, where she resides, Mary Kay Fager's freelance artworks demonstrates her varied talents as a painter, caricaturist, courtroom artist, illustrator, muralist and artist-in-residence for numerous schools. Her favorite mediums are oil, pen and ink, and pastels. She received her training at Moore College of Art, Philadelphia and later with Ed Loper and Ruth Anne Crawford in Wilmington, DE. She also has attended seminars in Quebec and Gloucester, MA.

She has exhibited in numerous galleries in Pennsylvania and Delaware and has received many prizes in these states. Six murals in the Harrisburg area have been designed and painted by her; four are in the Education Bldg of Trinity Lutheran Church, Camp Hill.

Mary Kay has also been employed to render courtroom sketches for various TV News stations and newspapers throughout several county courtrooms in PA, as well as federal courtrooms.

DONNA ANDERSON

Donna Anderson, multi-talented as a weaver, photographer, seamstress, and painter resides in Camp Hill. She earned her BFA in textile design and BA in graphic design from East Carolina University. She also holds an associates degree in graphic arts. She has been published and featured several times in Quilting Arts Magazine; Cloth, Paper, Scissors Magazine; Chambliss Art Studio, Destin, FL. Among her many endeavors, Donna began creating clothes in 2001 and shortly afterward launched OIG®, a one-of-a-kind clothing line for little girls sizes 2T-8. She sold her clothing designs to customers throughout the U.S. via her website and locally in independent boutiques.

Today, Donna's ambitions lead her in painting where she can creatively preserve cherished memories for others through her work. Her oil portraitures of people and pets, which will be featured in the exhibit, are two to six feet large and capture the subjects very well.

CHERYL PIPERBERG

Hailing from Lancaster, Cheryl Piperberg's earned a BFA from Moore College of Art in 1973. In the early to mid-seventies, she designed educational materials at the PA School for the Deaf in Philadelphia. For the following ten years (through 1987) she worked as a freelance illustrator creating more educational materials, print works, books, brochures and produced for museum exhibits. Since 1987, Piperberg is owner and publisher of Children's Poster Company through which she creates "Carrot Prints – Nourishing Images for Children. While operating her own company, she taught Illustration/Design at Pennsylvania College of Art and Design (PCAD), in Lancaster, from 2000 to 2002.

Also known for brilliant detailed mandalas, for this exhibit Cheryl will present blessing bowls, which are hand-painted vessels for messages, prayers, and blessings to be given as personal, meaningful gifts to yourself or another including works depicting special pets.

RICHARD SUMMONS

Rick Summons, of Sinking Spring, creates fascinating naturalistic, surrealistic, and abstract works of art, using a variety of materials including bronze, aluminum, stainless steel, laser-cut steel, gypsum cements, stoneware, porcelain, bonded metals and stone.

Known and collected nationally and internationally for his relief works, he exhibits regularly at galleries in PA and NJ.

Equally known for sculptures, for this show, Rick features all animals great and small in reliefs. From elephants to hippos, turtles to fish, pelicans to cats and dogs, Rick excels in his detail and boldness and it will be clear why he works are so highly regarded and collectible.

PA Author Captures Local Woman's Tragic Story

Newly diagnosed with Attention Deficit Disorder, Christopher Finlan didn't know if he could concentrate long enough to achieve his dream of writing a book. But when he learned about the story of Hillary Dunlop Schmid and her courageous family last spring, he was inspired to write "Not a Fire Exit".

Since then the book's sold nearly 1,000 copies by word of mouth alone and raised more than $6,000 for Spinal Muscular Atrophy. A percentage of profits are being donated to fight the disease.

Finlan's debut novel is a work of fiction, a captivating tale full of mystery, love and humor interwoven with serious social messages. The book's element of mystery gives exposure to the fatal illness Spinal Muscular Atrophy, which caused the death of five-month-old Zane Schmid, the daughter of a graduate of Finlan's high school, Hillary Dunlop Schmid. Both Schmid and Finlan graduated from Great Valley High School in Malvern.

Finlan, 35, was diagnosed with ADD in May 2009. He had always wanted to write a novel, even submitting some work to an editor who proclaimed it to be very good. But he was never able to stay focused enough to complete anything. He heard about Hillary's plight with her daughter Zane and was especially devastated because he had a son the same age. He began writing "Not a Fire Exit" and never looked back.

"Once I started, I really wanted to highlight SMA and Zane's story, so I asked Hillary what she thought of all this, and she was very excited and happy to be a part of it," Finlan said. "I asked her to write a foreword and I dedicated the book to the Schmid family and made sure a significant portion of the profits will be going to help families struggling with this terrible disease."

Even with her devastating loss, Hillary said that she is motivated to spearhead efforts to raise money for the fatal disease.

"I am so touched by Chris's tremendous efforts to raise awareness for Spinal Muscular Atrophy and to donate so much to research to combat it, both personally and through proceeds from book sales," she said.

The paperback, e-book and Amazon Kindle versions of "Not a Fire Exit" are available at Amazon, Barnes and Noble.com and other internet book re-sellers.

"Not a Fire Exit" also is available as an audiobook for download on iTunes. The foreward of the audiobook was read by Hillary and the rest of the book was read and performed by actress and model Sarah McMaster. Twenty percent of the proceeds are being donated to various charities around Spinal Muscular Atrophy.

Info: www.notafireexit.com

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PFLAG Releases "Straight for Equality in Healthcare"

> **"This resource can transform the experiences of lgbt people in the healthcare system."**
>
> *Jody M. Huckaby, executive director, PFLAG National*

The national branch of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) Recently released a new publication that gives health care providers information on how to be inclusive of lgbt health issues.

While affordable healthcare continues to be a major national issue, this is only one of the challenges facing lgbt people when it comes to their medical care," says Jody M. Huckaby, executive director, PFLAG National.

"Too often, providers' lack the basic cultural competency on lgbt issues, rely on misinformation or simply do not have access to simple and effective resources, creating barriers to adequate healthcare access for their patients. Release of "Straight for Equality in Healthcare" aims to change this trend," Huckaby says.

"For many healthcare providers, it isn't a case of not wanting to be inclusive of lgbt patients, but rather a sense that it isn't an issue – or, when it is, confusion around how to talk about it – that gets in the way," Huckaby notes.

"Making the case for inclusive and competent healthcare for lgbt patients is critical and by providing simple and accessible information to healthcare professionals, we can transform the experiences of LGBT people in the healthcare system," says Huckaby. "This guide will create more effective relationships between straight healthcare providers and their lgbt patients and can radically improve healthcare for our community."

Straight for Equality in Healthcare (www.straightforequality.org/healthcare) is the second publication from PFLAG National's Straight for Equality (www.straightforequality.org) project. The project, launched in 2007, aims to help people have the everyday, nonpolitical conversations that need to occur in order to foster greater acceptance of lgbt people. Since its inception, the project has trained more than 3,500 people nationwide on the topic of how to be a straight ally.

Obama Pledges to Work with Congress on DADT

In his first official State of the Union address before Congress, President Obama pledged to work with Congress on DADT in 2010.

In the context of comments on diversity, he said: "Abroad, America's greatest source of strength has always been our ideals. The same is true at home. We find unity in our incredible diversity, drawing on the promise enshrined in our Constitution: the notion that we are all created equal, that no matter who you are or what you look like, if you abide by the law you should be protected by it; that if you adhere to our common values you should be treated no different than anyone else.

We must continually renew this promise. My administration has a Civil Rights Division that is once again prosecuting civil rights violations and employment discrimination. We finally strengthened our laws to protect against crimes driven by hate. This year, I will work with Congress and our military to finally repeal the law that denies gay Americans the right to serve the country they love because of who they are. We are going to crack down on violations of equal pay laws -- so that women get equal pay for an equal day's work. And we should continue the work of fixing our broken immigration system -- to secure our borders, enforce our laws, and ensure that everyone who plays by the rules can contribute to our economy and enrich our nations.

Living with Autism Spectrum Disorder?

Are you or a family member living with Autism Spectrum Disorder?

The Bureau of Autism Services, PA Department of Public Welfare, in partnership with Keystone Autism Services, has developed and implemented the Adult Community Autism Program (ACAP) to support adults 21 years of age and older living with an Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Serving up to 200 people in Dauphin, Lancaster, Cumberland and Chester Counties, ACAP provides cutting-edge, innovative services including: community relations and socialization opportunities, employment coaching and support, crisis intervention and extra support to get people back on track, medical services, and counseling and behavioral health services.

All supports are individually tailored to each person's strengths and needs. Providers and professionals trained specifically in the needs of ASD offer the following support services including, but not limited to: community integration, employment support, supports coordination, medical services, crisis intervention, counseling and behavioral support services.

Info: Keystone Autism Services; 717-412-7400, 1-877-501-4715; www.keystoneautism.org; www.autisminpa.org. Application for ACAP is made by contacting the Bureau of Autism Services at 1-866-539-7689.

Opens Stage Presents "Anne Frank" and New Court Street Cabaret

Theatre lovers will have one from the old and one from the new at Open Stage of Harrisburg.

Open Stage presents the award winning play "The Diary of Anne Frank." The play is an inspiring story of perseverance and hope, which serves as a timeless lesson that the spirit of a child is impossible to deny. Second only to the Bible, The Diary of Anne Frank is one of the world's most read books.

Set during one of history's most brutal periods, the Holocaust, the play is based on the actual diary of a young girl who comes of age while hiding from the Nazis in a tiny, overcrowded attic with her family for more than two years. During their confinement, Anne discovers herself as a beautiful, thoughtful, and extraordinary girl. Her story is a constant reminder to us all of the power of the human spirit.

"Diary" will be performed March 13, 8 p. m. in the Sunoco Performance Theatre at Whitaker Center, 222 Market St. in downtown Harrisburg,

For 717- 214-ARTS (2787) for ticket info; www.openstagehbg.com. Student and Senior Rush tickets are available 15 minutes before the curtain of any performance. Students must have a valid student I.D. and seniors must be over 60 years of age. Rush tickets are $13 and may not be purchased in advance. Availability is limited.

This production is funded, in part, by the Cultural Enrichment Fund, the capital region's united arts fund. Open Stage of Harrisburg is a Constituent of Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for American theatre.

Cabaret

Open Stage announces an exciting addition to their 2010 schedule, "Court Street Cabaret". Stuart Landon and Dorea Schmidt will perform an evening of song, comedy and cabaret March 20.

"This is a fantastic show with two powerhouse performers," say Don Alsedek, Open Stage's artistic director. "It takes you on a journey through the oddities of love and relationships using visuals, comedy and song from Broadway, standards, pop and rock. It's an uplifting evening that will guarantee to have you smiling when you leave the theatre."

For one night only local professionals Landon and Schmidt headline Open Stage's cabaret. Two amazing voices pair up for a relaxed and fun experience, featuring songs by Stephen Sondheim, Irving Berlin, John Mayor, Jason Robert Brown, Stephen Schwartz, and the Beatles. Free refreshments will be provided.

"Blending captivating personality and commanding yet welcoming presence with amazingly versatile voices, Landon and Schmidt will give their audience a musical experience that is at once funny, moving and truthful," says Alsedek.

Tickets info: 214-ARTS (2787); www.openstagehbg.com. No discounts will be honored for this program. Seating is general admission. The theatre's lobby opens one hour prior to curtain.

Nominations Sought for HIV/AIDS Award

Know someone who has gone the extra mile to help people living with HIV/AIDS?

Nominations for the John Folby Award for Excellence in the Field of HIV/AIDS is awarded annually at The Black and White Party. The event is held annually at York's Club XS. The award recognizes outstanding work in the field of HIV/AIDS.

John Folby, the first award winner and the person for whom the award is named, worked for over a decade as the administrator of the Pennsylvania program which provides HIV medications to people who would otherwise be unable to afford those medications. Folby has been a tireless advocate for people with HIV within the state government and pharmaceutical industry.

The Black and White Benefit Organizing Committee invites readers to submit nominations for the 2010 John Folby award. Anyone who works or volunteers in the field of HIV/AIDS is eligible to be nominated. Potential nominees may include doctors, case managers, educators, nurses, administrators, or counselors.

Submit nominations to coswald72@gmail.com or call 846-6776. Please provide in your email the nominee's name, place of employment, why you think this person should receive the award, your name, telephone number, your email.

social organizations & recreational clubs

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Phone: (717)732-0233
Contact: Michael Reed
Wheelchair Accessible: No information available
Hours: Calls and Emails Can be made Days/Evenings
Email: mreeddesigns@yahoo.com

Harrisburg Gay Men's & Women's Volleyball

3rd and Bridge St
New Cumberland, PA
Phone: 717.233.3172
Contact: Jim
Wheelchair Accessible: No information available
Hours: Every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. - 9.30 p.m.

Baughman United Methodist Church

Harrisburg Ladies Night Out
New Cumberland. Cost: $2.50
PO Box 266
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
Phone: 717.232.8382
Contact: Judy Chambers
Wheelchair Accessible: No information available

HOWL

HOWL hanging out with lesbians. Group of 140 women.
Contact: Gina Bowers-Miller
Wheelchair Accessible: No information available
Email: howlofpa@yahoo.com
Website: http://www.homestead.com/howlofpa/index.hmtl
Other web address http://groups.yahoo.com/group/howlofpa/ to join

Lambda Car Club Int'l Central PA Region

Organization of GLBT people who are interested in collectable automobiles
Contact: Robert Miller, President
1721 Logan St.
Harrisburg, PA 17102
PH: 610 496-5651
3623 Green Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110
Phone: 717.238.9766
Contact: John Ball
Wheelchair Accessible: no
Hours: Meet monthly at different members houses, call for info
Email: buickbum2@aol.com

Rainbow Pride Rural Project

This project intends to create support for the GLBT community living in rural York, Juniata, Mifflin and Perry Counties. It is funded by the Foundation for Enhancing Communities and housed within Metropolitan Community Church of the Spirit located in uptown Harrisburg, Pa.
2973 Jefferson St.
Harrisburg, Pa. 17110-2127
Phone: 717-236-7387
Contact: Kevin E. Burrell
Wheelchair Accessible: Yes
Email: kevinb2004@msn.com

Students Advocating LGBTA Equality

Shippensburg University Cumberland Union Building
Box 89
Shippensburg, Pa 17265
Phone: 717-477-1616
Contact: Travis Eichelberger
Wheelchair Accessible: No information available
Email: susale@gmail.com
Website: www.ship.edu/~msa/SALE.htm

Susquehanna Club

Group camping open to LGBT people and their friends.
Wheelchair Accessible: No information available
Email: camp@susq.org
Website: www.susq.org

Susquehanna Valley Bears

PO Box 11, Manchester, PA 17345
Contact: Matt S.
Wheelchair Accessible: No Information Available
Email: daddyscrub@comcast.net
Website: www.svbears.com

The Pennsmen, Inc

The Pennsmen, Inc are Central PA's glbt leather/levi/kink social organization. Membership is open to anyone over the age of 21 with an interest in the lifestyle. Meetings are held on the second Sunday of each month at the Neptune Lounge @ 3:00pm
PO Box 401
HARRISBURG, PA 17108-0401
Phone: 717-232-3785
Contact: Steven James
Wheelchair Accessible: No information available
Hours: Evenings
Email: pennsmen@pennsmen.org
Website: www.pennsmen.org

The Rainbow Bowling League

The Rainbow Bowling League bowls every Thursday at 8:55 p.m. We bowl out of the ABC East Lanes on Eisenhower Blvd in Harrisburg and are considered a "mixed" league: in other words, both men and women are welcome. We would like to invite anyone interested in joining or you have friends that are interested in bowling on Thursday evenings. Call for more details. Openings for individual bowlers, teams and substitutes.
Phone: 763-8444
Contact: Mark or Robert
Wheelchair Accessible: No information available
Hours: Thursday 8:45 P.M.

Women's Circle

c/o Bobbi Carmitchell
Locust Lane Music, P.O. Box 8301
Lancaster, Pa 17604
Phone: 717.872.4512
Contact: Bobbi Carmitchell
Wheelchair Accessible: No information available
Email: bobbi@womenscircle.org
Website: www.womenscircle.org

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Explosive Documents Expose Prop. 8 Campaign Tactics

Rick Jacobs, Chair of the Courage Campaign Institute issued the following statement on the Prop 8 campaign videos and documents introduced into evidence this morning in the Perry v. Schwarzenegger trial. The new evidence shows how the Prop 8 campaign tried to link marriage equality to incest, bestiality, pedophilia and polygamy:

"This morning's evidence made the Prop 8 side's strategy crystal clear -- use fear and lies to promote hate. It is horrifying that Prop 8 proponents would compare marriage equality to the 9/11 terrorist attacks and imply that marriage equality will open the door to pedophilia, incest and bestiality."

"Ron Prentice, Andrew Pugno and their Prop 8 team -- with the highly capable and apparently deeply cynical leadership of Frank Schubert -- created a permanent campaign to scare voters into believing that same-sex marriage would threaten children, undermine America and lead to every form of illicit behavior imaginable."

"This evidence is not just a smoking gun. It was an arsenal of incendiary devices directed at the LGBT community and voters. This is how the Prop 8 side won -- through fear and lies."

"Finally, this morning we saw indisputable, documented evidence in the form of emails and videos that Ron Prentice and Protect Marriage coordinated closely and relied upon the Catholic Church, the LDS Church, the Family Research Council, Maggie Gallagher, Brian Brown and the National Organization for Marriage to get Prop. 8 on the ballot and to win through a campaign of lies."

"Last week, the Supreme Court erased decades of precedent by ruling that corporations have the same rights as people when it comes to speech. Let's hope that the court will as readily see that LGBT people have at least the same rights as corporations and surely the same rights as other people."

> **"This evidence is not just a smoking gun. It was an arsenal of incendiary devices directed at the LGBT community and voters. This is how the Prop 8 side won -- through fear and lies."**
>
> *— Rick Jacobs, Chair, Courage Campaign Institute*

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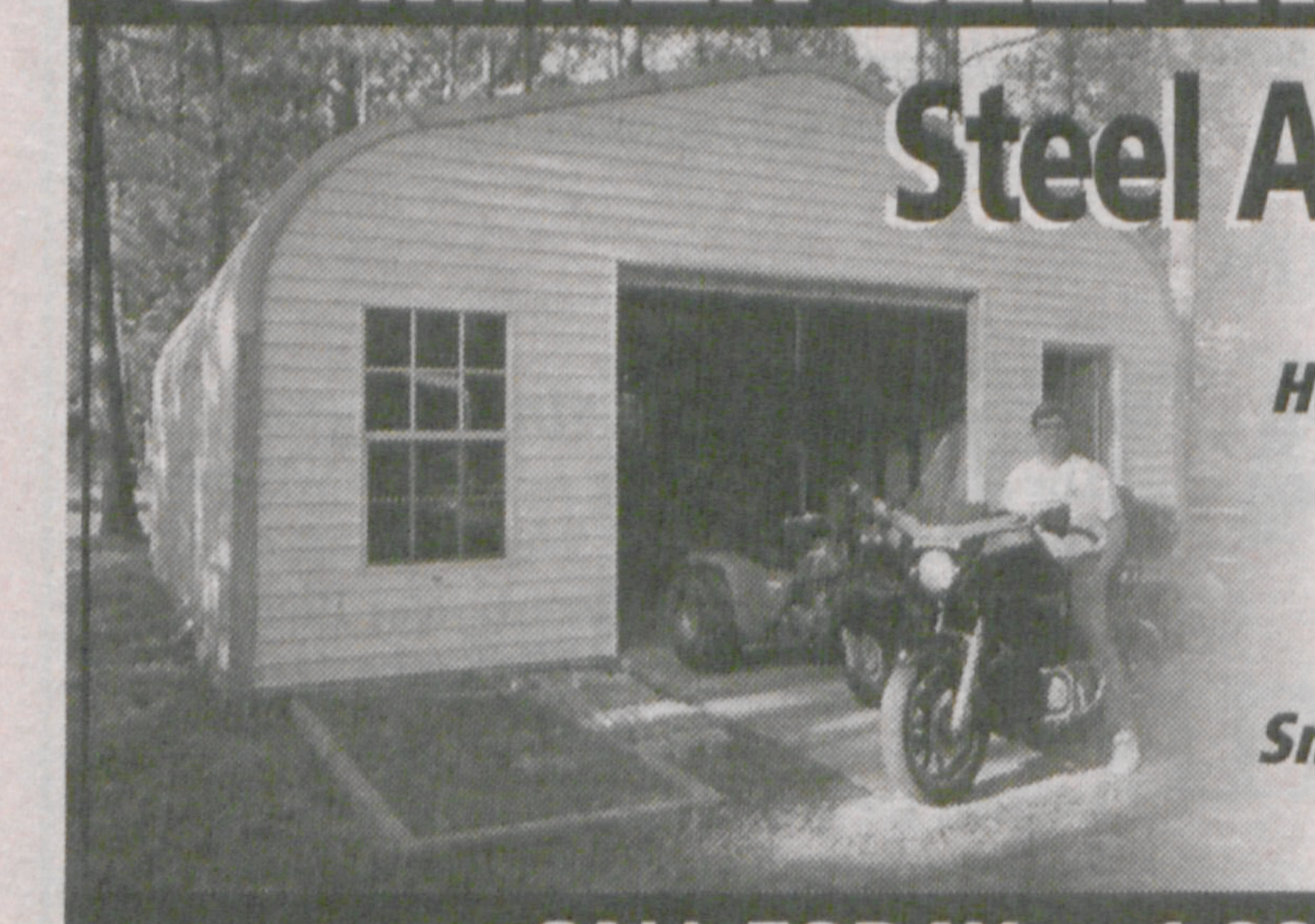

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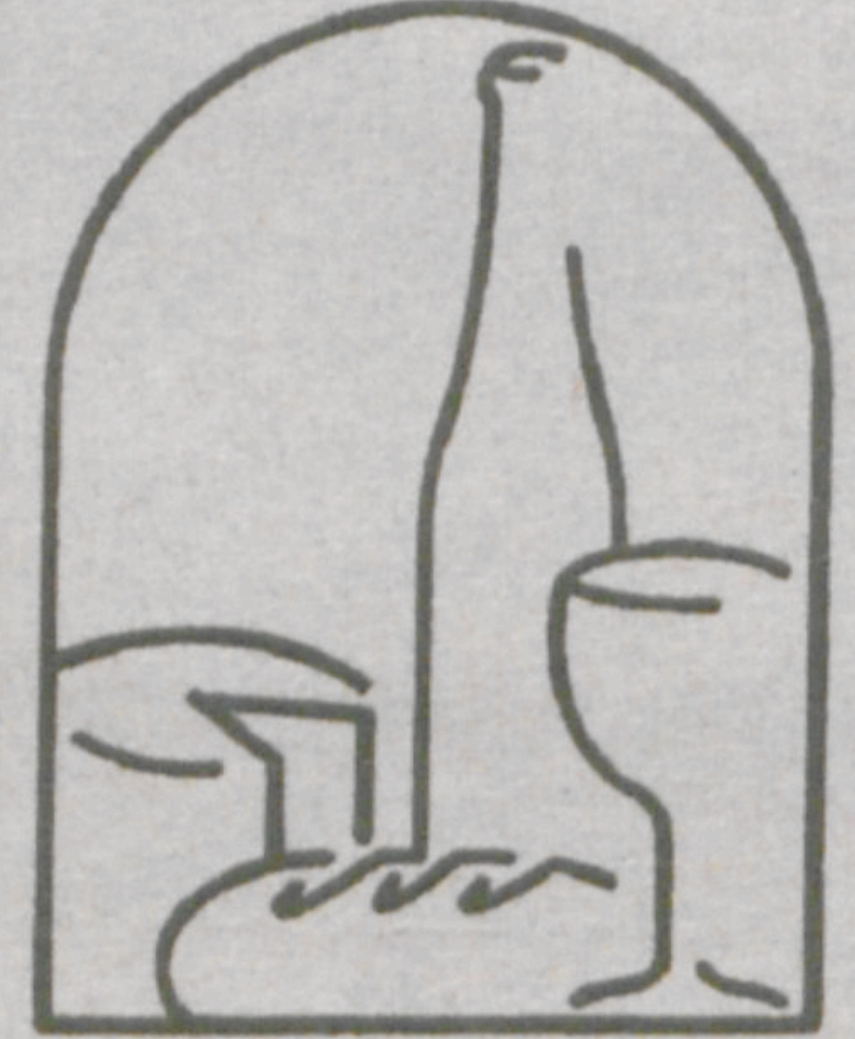

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FRIDAY, MARCH 12
Retro Flashback Dance Party **10 pm**

WEDNESDAY MARCH 17 10 pm
St. Patrick's Day Celebration Karaoke & Dance Party

FRIDAY, APRIL 16 & SATURDAY, APRIL 17
Beach Party Weekend

MONDAYS - Movie Night 9 pm
TUESDAYS - Trivia Night 9 pm
WEDNESDAYS - Karaoke 10 pm
THURSDAYS - SIN Night with Free Pool
FRIDAYS - All Request Night on the Dance Floor 10 pm
SATURDAYS - Weekend Dance Party 10 pm
SUNDAYS - Wii Game Night 9 pm

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